

Foreword to Acts

Different types of brackets.

(.....) - The translated word from the original remains here, but within this type of bracket, in the ordinary color, and downsized so as to avoid a sometimes long-winded meaning in the original text. You can either read this/these word(s) or drop it/them for a more fluent reading.

{.....} - Within this type of bracket, downsized, and in **green** is the original Aramaic word or words being represented; or the Aramaic idiom or phrase, after the English word or words.

[.....] - This type of bracket, downsized, and in **brown** is for the explanation of an Aramaic word, or a footnote. In the appendix, you'll find notes that explain some. Each number that is placed next to a word has its equal in the notes. I've been careful when modifying the text into an easy reading, and at the same time retained the original. Words that I've added are in ***cursive***, as this following example: "*then* he knocked at the door." "*then*" is added. Quotations from the Old Testament are also in cursive, and in another color. In this English translation, we find the idioms and other expression that was used by the Jews of that time, when they spoke Aramaic. When the apostles wrote the gospels and the letters, they, or their scribes, wrote in Aramaic to the Aramaic speaking Jews, and then, most probably, the scribes translated the books and letters immediately to Greek. In the Greek translation of the Aramaic original, many Aramaic expressions were written down. Sometimes the idioms were misunderstood, and here and there, Aramaic words were confused in certain Greek manuscripts, while other Greek manuscripts got it correctly, yet, instead, confused other words that the other got right.

Aramaic is the mother to Hebrew. It shares the grammar and more. After about 50 years as prisoners in Babylon (597-539 BC), Aramaic speaking Jews returned to their country. Around 150-200 AD, they began to fully return back to the Hebrew language, which one can find evidence for in scriptures of that time. Jesus and his disciples spoke a Galilean dialect of Aramaic.

"*Holy*" comes from "*heile*" which means "*sun's rays*", and "*Helios*" is the sun-person who is Titan's son in Greek Mythology. Rukha d'Qudsha actually means "*The Separated Spirit*". So, "*holy*", "*saints*" "*Sanctify*" and "*hallowed*" should be replaced with "*separate*" in all cases, because we have the same Aramaic root word in all of them, namely "*Qadish*", a word that takes on the meaning that God sits on His Heavenly Throne, above everything, apart from all things, higher than all, in His majesty of pureness in all His work. The Aramaic text of East Peshitta has one more word than the Greek for the Gospel about Our Lord and Savior, and that is "*Sabarthat*", which also can mean "*Good News*". We all recognize Evangelium, which means "*Good News*". However, in Rom 10:16 it reads: "*Sbartha Evangelium, which translates: The Hopeful Message of The Good News*". In this case, Sabarthat cannot mean "*Good News*", because then it would read "*The Good News of The Good News*". Since Sabarthat means either "*Good News*" or "*Hopeful Message*", the wisest thing is to go by what reads in Rom 10:16, and determine that it must be "*Hopeful Message*".

The Acts of the Sent Ones (Apostles) {Shlikhe}

Chapter 1

The first writing [Luke's gospel] was written, O Theophilus, about all those *things* which Our Lord Jesus Christ {Maran Eshu M'shikha} began to do and to teach, up to the day in which He ascended after having given instruction to His Sent Ones, the ones whom He had chosen through The Holy Spirit {Rukha d'Qudsha}, to whom He also had shown Himself during forty days by many signs, while alive, after He had suffered, where He was appearing to them and speaking about The Kingdom of God.

And after He had eaten bread with them, He instructed them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but rather, that they should remain for the Father's Promise, “*That which you have heard from Me; that John had immersed in water and you will be immersed in The Holy Spirit after not many days.*”

Then, when they had gathered, they asked and they said to Him, “Our Lord, perhaps at this time You will return the Kingdom to Isra'El?”

He said to them, “*This is not your own to know, the time, or the times which The Father {Aba} has set by the authority of His own Soul, but when The Holy Spirit will come upon you, you will receive power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem and in all of Judea, and also among the Samaritans, and as far as to the ends of the Earth.*”

And after these *things* were said, He ascended while they looked to Him. And a cloud received Him and concealed Him from their eyes.

And while they were looking in the Heavens, when He had departed, two men were found standing with them in white clothing, and they said to them, “*Men, Galileans! Why are you standing and looking in the Heavens? This Jesus who has ascended from you to the Heavens will thus so come according to how (that) you have seen that He has ascended to the Heavens.*”

And after *this*, they returned to Jerusalem from the Mountain which is called the place of Olives, which is on the side of Jerusalem, and distant from it according to shaba estaduan [seven stadium, ca: 4,200 feet, just over 2 miles].

And after that, going up, they entered into a room where in it there was Peter, and John, and Jacob/James, and Andrew, and Philip, and Thomas, and Matthew, and Bartholomew, and Alphaeus's son Jacob, and Simon the Zealot, and Jacob's son Judas. All these were together, constantly in prayer with one soul, together with the women and with Mary, the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

And in those days, Simon Kefa [The Stone] stood up in the midst of the disciples; yet, there were about one hundred and twenty of the men assembled there. And he said, “Men, brothers! It was proper that the Scripture should be fulfilled, that which The Holy Spirit previously spoke through David's mouth about Judas, he who was the guide for those who seized Jesus because he was numbered with us.

And there was for him a part in this ministry. This is he who obtained a field for himself from the reward of his sin, and fell on his face upon the ground, and was split open from his middle, and all his bowels poured out.

And this same *thing* has been known to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and thus, that field is called in the language of the region “Hqal d'ma,” translated; “Quryat d'em [The Field of Blood]”, for it is written in the scroll of the Psalms that, “*His dwelling will be deserted and an inhabitant will not be in it,*” and “*another will take his ministry.*”

Now then, it is proper for one from *among* these men whom have been with us during all this time, concerning which among us Our Lord Jesus came in and went out, whom had joined *us* from John's immersion, up to the day that He ascended from among us, so that he should be a witness with us of His Resurrection.”

And two were raised up: Joseph who is called Barsabas, who is named Justus; and Matthias. And after they had prayed, they said, “Lord YHWH {MarYa}! You who are acquainted with the hearts of all, show the one whom You have chosen from these two so that he should receive the part of The ministry, and The Sending Forth from which Judas has left, so that he should go to his place.”

And they cast the lots, and it came up for Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven Sent Ones.

Chapter 2

And when the days of Pentecost were completed, while they were all gathered together, suddenly {from the stillness/quiet} there was a sound from the Heavens as of a powerful wind. And from it all the house had filled, that in which they were seated.

And there were tongues appearing to them which were distributed like fire, and were settling upon each one from them. And all were filled with The Holy Spirit and were proceeding to speak in certain languages according to what The Spirit had given to them to speak.

Yet, there were men who were dwelling in Jerusalem who revered God [Alaha]; from the Jews and from all the Gentiles who are under the Heavens. And when there was that sound, all the people gathered and were troubled because each man (from them) were hearing that they were speaking in their languages.

Then they were all wondering and surprised while they were saying one to another, “Look, all these who are speaking, are they not Galileans? How are we hearing, we, each man, the language in which we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Alans, and those which dwell in Mesopotamia; Jews, and Cappadocians, and from the region of Pontus and of Asia, and from the region of Phrygia, and of Pamphiylia, and Egypt, and of the regions of Libya which is near to Cyrene, and those who had come from Rome; the Jews and Proselytes, and those from Crete and Arabians. Look, we hear of God's wonders from them who are speaking in our own languages.”

Then all were surprised and amazed, while saying one to another, “How is this thing?” Yet, others among them were mocking while saying, “These have drunk wine and are drunk!”

And afterward, Simon Kefa stood up with the eleven Sent Ones and lifted his voice up, and said to them, “Men {Gabre}, Jews, and all who dwell in Jerusalem!

This will be known to you, and be listening to my words, for not as you think that these are drunk, because, look, up to now there are three hours [9 am], but rather, this is spoken by the Prophet Joel that, *'It will happen in the last days, says God. I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh.*

And your sons will be prophesying, and your daughters and your young men will be seeing visions, and your Elders will be dreaming dreams. And upon My servants and upon My maidservants, I will pour out My Spirit in those days, and they will be prophesying.

And I will give signs in the Heavens and powers upon the Earth; blood and fire and the vapor of smoke. The Sun will be changed into darkness, and the Moon into blood, before there will come The Great and Terrible Day of The Lord YHWH.

And it will be, that all who proclaim The Name of The Lord YHWH will Live.'

Men, sons of Isra'El! Hear these words! Jesus, the Nazarene; a Man who from God has appeared to you in power and in signs and in wonders, that which God has performed among you through Him, as you yourselves know, for this One who was appointed to this by the foreknowledge and by the will of God, you have delivered into wicked hands, and have crucified, and have killed.

But God raised Him and loosened the cords of Sheul, because it was not possible that He should be held in Sheul. For David said about Him: *'I have foreseen My Lord {Mari}, He who always is on My right, that I not be troubled.*

Because of this My heart has rejoiced and My glory was gladdened, and My body will also rest upon hope that You will not leave My Soul in Sheul. And You will not allow for Your Holy One that He should see corruption. To Me, The Way of Life was revealed. You will fill Me with sweetness with

Your Presence.'

Men, brothers, allow me to speak to you openly/boldly {with an open eye} about the fathers' Chief; David, who has died and also was buried. And his burial-place is with us until today. For he was a Prophet and knew that God had sworn an oath to him, that *'From the fruit of your belly will sit upon your throne.'* [Psalm 132:11 of Peshitta]

And he foresaw and spoke regarding The Resurrection of Christ, that He was not left in Sheul; also, neither did His body see corruption. This Jesus, God has raised up. And we all are His witnesses.

And He is The One who is exalted at the right of God and has received the promise of The Holy Spirit from The Father, and concerning which has poured out this Gift that, look... you are seeing and you are hearing. For David has not ascended to the Heavens, because it was he who had said: *'The Lord YHWH has said to My Lord to "Sit at My right until I place Your masters of slander as a footstool for Your feet.'* [Psalm 110:1 -Peshitta]

Now then, truly, let all The House of Isra'El know that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified The Lord YHWH and Christ!"

And when they had heard this, they were touched in their heart, and they said to Simon and to the rest of the Sent Ones, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Simon said to them, "Repent and be immersed each man from you in The Name of The Lord YHWH Jesus for the remission of sins, so that you should receive The Gift of The Holy Spirit. For the promise was made to you and to your sons, and to all those who are distant; those whom God Himself will call."

And he was testifying to them with many other words, and was requiring from them while saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!" And men from them readily received his word and believed, and were immersed. And about three-thousand souls were added in that day.

And they were constantly in the teaching of the Sent Ones. And they were participating in prayer and in the breaking of The Eucharist. And there was awe in every soul. And there were many signs and wonders through the Sent Ones in Jerusalem.

And all those who were believing were together. And every thing that was theirs was common. And those to whom were possessions were selling and were distributing to each man according to the thing which was needful.

And they were always in The Temple everyday with one soul. And they were breaking The Flat-bread in the house. And they were receiving their food while rejoicing and were giving praises to God in their heart's purity while giving with mercies before all the people. And everyday Our Lord was adding to those who were Living in the assembly.

Chapter 3

And it happened that when Simon Kefa and John went up together to The Temple at the set time of The Prayer of the ninth hour [3:00-4:00 pm]; behold: A certain man, lame from his mother's womb, who was begging alms from those who were entering to The Temple, which men had brought, who were accustomed to bring him and set him at the gate of The Temple that is called Beautiful, this one, when he saw Simon and John who were entering to The Temple, was begging from them so that they should give alms [charity] to him.

And Simon and John looked at him, and said to him, "Look at us." But he had looked at them while expecting he was to receive something from them.

Simon said to him, "Gold and silver is not mine; but rather, the thing that is mine, I give to you: In The Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, The Nazarene; arise; walk." And he took him by his right hand, and raised him up.

And in that hour his feet and his ankles were made firm. And he leaped up, arose and walked, and entered with them to The Temple, while he was walking and leaping and giving praise to God.

And all the people had seen him while he walked and gave praise to God, and they knew that it was he; the beggar, who everyday would sit and beg alms next to the gate which is called Beautiful. And they were filled with wonder and amazement about the thing which had happened.

And while he was holding onto Simon and to John, all the people, while wondering, ran towards them to the Portico which is called Solomons.

And when Simon had seen it, he responded and said to them, “Men, sons of Isra’El! Why are you wondering at this, or, why are you looking at us, as though (that) it is by our own power or by our authority *that* we did this, that this one walks?

It is The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob; our fathers' God, who has glorified His Son Jesus, He whom you delivered over and denied Him in the presence of Pilate when he had granted Him to be released.

But you have rejected (with regard to) The Holy One and The Just One, and you asked for a man; a murderer, that he be given to you. And that One; The Beginning of Life; you killed, whom God has raised up from the place of the dead.

And we are all witnesses. And for this one who you see and you know, He has made strong and He has healed through the Faith of His Name. And the Faith which is in Him has given to him this health before you all. Now, however, my brothers, I know that you did this through deception according to that which your leaders did.

And God fulfilled this thing according to the thing which He previously had proclaimed through the mouth of all His Prophets; that His Anointed One would suffer. Repent therefore and be converted so that your sins will be blotted out, and there will come to you times of rest from before The Face of The Lord YHWH.

And He will send to you The One who was prepared for you; Jesus Christ, which to Whom it is fitting for the Heavens that they would receive Him until the fullness of the times; of all those things which were from eternity which God has spoken through the mouth of His holy Prophets.

For Moses has said that, *‘The Lord YHWH will raise up a Prophet like to me to you from your brothers. Hear Him in everything whatsoever that He will speak with you. And it will be that every soul who will not listen to that Prophet, that soul will perish from His people.’*

And all the Prophets which were from Samuel, and those which were after him, have spoken and have proclaimed about these days. You are the sons of the Prophets and of The Covenant, the one God ordained for our fathers when He said to Abraham that, *‘In your Seed all the families of the Earth will be blessed.’* He established it to you previously {from before}. And afterward, God sent His Son to you; to bless you, if you will be converted and be repenting from your evils.”

Chapter 4

And when they were speaking these words to the people, there arose against them Priests, and Sadducees, and Rulers of The Temple when they were angered against them that they were teaching the people, and were proclaiming in Christ about The Resurrection which is from the place of the dead.

And they captured (placed their hands upon) them. And they kept them to the next day because it was near to the evening. And many who had heard The Word were believing, and they were in number as to five thousand men.

And the next day, the Rulers gathered, and the Elders, and the Scribes, and even Ananias the Chief Priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and those who are from the family of the Chief Priest. And when they had stood them in the middle, they were asking them, “By what power, or by what name have you done this?”

Then Simon Kefa was filled with The Holy Spirit, and said to them, “Rulers of the people, and Elders of The House of Isra’El; listen! If today we are being judged, we from you, for the good which has

happened to this infirm son of man; that by what this one was healed, this be known to you and to all the people of Isra'El: That in The Name of Jesus Christ, The Nazarene; He whom you had crucified, that One whom God raised up from the place of the dead; by that One Himself; look, this one stands before you {while} healthy!

This is '*The Rock which you builders had rejected*', and He has become The Head of the corner, and there is no redemption in another person, for there is no other Name under the Heavens which was given to the sons of men in which it is fitting to Live."

¹³ And when they were hearing the speech of Simon and of John, that they were speaking boldly {with an open eye}, they understood that they didn't know book learning, and *that* they were simple. And they were amazed at them, and they recognized that they had associated with Jesus.

And they saw that the lame man was standing with them, who was healed, and they were not able to say a thing to oppose them.

Then they commanded that they should go out from the gathering, and were saying one to another, "What will we do to these men? For look, a clear miracle which was by their hand has been known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we are not able that we should deny it. But rather, so that this report shouldn't exceedingly go forth among the people, there will be threats to them so that they will not again speak in this name to a man from the sons of men." And they called them and commanded them that they absolutely should not speak and not teach in the name of Jesus.

Simon Kefa and John responded, and said to them, "You judge if it is right before God that we should listen to you more than from God, for we are not able that we shouldn't speak because *of* what we have seen and have heard."

And they threatened them and released them, for, because of the people, they couldn't find a cause that they might place on their head, for everyone was giving praise to God for the thing which had happened; for the man to whom this sign of healing happened was a son of more than forty years.

And when they were released, they came to their brothers. And they related to them all that which the Priests and the Elders had said. And they, when they had heard it, they were lifting their voice together up to God, and were saying: "*Lord YHWH, You are God Who made the Heavens and the Earth, and the Sea, and all which are in them.*"

And You are He who spoke through David Your servant's mouth by means of The Holy Spirit: '*For what did the Gentiles rage and the Nations plan vanity? The Kings of the Earth and the authorities have stood up and deliberated together about The Lord YHWH and about His Anointed One.*'

For they are firmly gathered in this city against Your Holy Son Jesus whom You have anointed; Herod and Pilate with the people and the assembly of Isra'El to do all what Your hand and Your will previously foreordained would be.

And also presently, Lord YHWH, look and see – for they are threatening – and give boldness {an open eye} to Your servants to be proclaiming Your Word, while You stretch Your hand out for healings and for wonders and for signs, which will be in The Name of Your Holy Son Jesus."

And while they were seeking, and were praying softly, the place in which they were gathered was shaken, and they were all filled with The Holy Spirit, and they were boldly {with an open eye} speaking God's Word.

Then, for the assembly, there was one soul and one mind of those men who had believed. And no man from them said there was, about the goods which were possessed, that they were their own, but rather, every thing that there was for them; that was common.

And they, the Sent Ones, were testifying in great power about The Resurrection of Jesus Christ, and there was great Grace {Taybuta} with them all. And there was not a man among them who lacked, for those who had acquired fields and houses were selling them and bringing the price of the thing which they sold, and were setting it at the feet of the Sent Ones. And there was given to each man according to the thing which was lacking.

Yet, Joseph; that one who by the Sent Ones was named Bar-Naba which is translated “B’ra d’B’uya’a” [Son of Encouragement], a Levite from the region of Cyprus; there was for him a field, and he sold it and brought the price and set it before the feet of the Sent Ones.

Chapter 5

And one man whose name was Ananias, had sold a field with his wife whose name was Beautiful, and took away from its price, and hid it while his wife was aware with regard to it. And he brought some from the silver and set it before the feet of the Sent Ones.

And Simon said to him, “Ananias, how is this thing which satana has filled your heart, that you would lie to The Holy Spirit, and would hide from the silver of the price of the field? Was it not your own before it was to be sold? And once sold, you again had authority concerning the price. Why did you put it in your heart that this thing would be done? You didn’t lie to the sons of men, but rather to God!”

And Ananias, he fell and died when had heard these words. And there was great fear among all those who heard of it. And there arose among them those who were young men. And they collected him, and went out, burying him. And after three hours, it happened *that* his wife also entered while not knowing what had happened.

Simon said to her, “Say to me if these were the prices that you sold the field.”

Then she said, “Yes, these were the prices.”

Simon said to her, “Because you were of agreement to test The Spirit of The Lord YHWH, look, the feet of your Husband’s buriers are at the door; and they will take you out!” And in that hour she fell before their feet and died.

And those young men entered, and they found her after she died. And they collected her and took her, burying her next to her husband. And there was great fear in all the assembly, and in all those who heard of it.

And there was done signs and many wonders among the people by the hand of The Sent Ones. And all were gathering together at The Portico of Solomon. And no man was bold that they should come near to them, from the other men, but the people were honoring them.

And an excessive amount were added; those who were believing in The Lord YHWH; a multitude of men and of women, in such a way that they were bringing out the sick into the streets, after they were placed on pallets, so that whenever it was that Simon would come, even his shadow might rest upon them.

Then there were many coming to them from the other cities surrounding Jerusalem, while they were bringing the sick and those who were having (for them) unclean spirits, and they all were healed.

And the Priests’ Chief was filled with envy, and all those who were with him, that is those (being) from the Sadducees’ doctrine. And they threw their hands upon the Sent Ones, and took hold on them, and bound them in the prisoner’s house.

Then, in the night, the Angels of The Lord YHWH opened the gate of the prisoner’s house and brought them out, and said to them, “Go! Stand in The Temple and speak to the people all these Words of Life.” And they went out at the time of dawn and entered to The Temple, and were teaching. Then the Priests’ Chief and those who were with him called for their companions and for the Elders of Isra’El, and sent them to the prisoner’s house so that they should bring them; the Sent Ones.

And when those who were sent from them left, they didn’t find them in the prisoner’s house. And they returned, coming back, saying, “We found the prisoner’s house closed securely, and also the guards standing at the gate. And we opened it. And no man did we find there.”

And when the Chief Priests and the Rulers of The Temple heard these words, they were amazed, and were pondering about them, what this was. And there came a man which informed them that, “Those men who were imprisoned in the prisoner’s house; look, they were standing in The Temple

and were teaching to the people.” Then the Rulers departed with the attendants so that they might bring them; not with violence *though*, for they were fearing that perhaps the people would stone them.

And when they brought them, they stood them before all the gathering. And the Chief Priests were proceeding to speak to them, “Had not we certainly command to you that no man was to teach in this name? Yet, look, you have filled Jerusalem with *(from)* your doctrine. And you are desiring that this man's blood should come upon us!”

Simon responded together with the Sent Ones, and said to them, “It is right for us to be persuaded to God more so than to the sons of men! Our fathers' God raised up Jesus whom you killed when you lifted Him up on the tree, for God has established this One *to be* The Chief and The Life Giver, and exalted Him at His right as The One who gives repentance and forgiveness of sin to Isra’El. And we, we are witnesses of these matters; and The Holy Spirit; The One whom God gives to those who are believing in Him.”

And while they were hearing these words, they were inflamed with wrath and they were determined to kill them. And there arose one from the Pharisees whose name was Gamali’El, (a doctor of the Law and honored by *(from)* all the people), and commanded that they should send the Sent Ones outside for a little time, and said to them, “Men, sons of Isra’El! Beware with regard to your souls, and see what is proper for you to do about these men. For, before this time there rose Theudas. And he said about his soul that he was something great.

And there went about four hundred men after him. And he was killed, and those who went after him were scattered, and they have become as nothing. And from after him there rose Judas the Galilean in the days that men were enrolled with the head-silver tax. And he turned aside many people after him. And he died. And all those who were going after him were scattered.

And now I say to you to depart from these men and leave them alone, for if it is *that* there is this thought from the sons of men, and *then* this work, it will dissolve and vanish. But if it is from God, *then*, in your hands there is no ability that can stop it; lest you be found that it is against God you are standing.”

And they were persuaded by him. And they called for the Sent Ones. And they scourged them and they commanded them that they should not be speaking in Jesus Name. And they released them. And they went out from before them while rejoicing that they were worthy because of The Name; that they would be despised, and they weren’t ceasing everyday to teach in The Temple and at home, and to declare about Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Chapter 6

And in those days, when the Disciples were increasing, the Greek Disciples were complaining about the Hebrews; that their widows were neglected in the daily ministry. And the Twelve Sent Ones called for all the assembly of the Disciples, and said to them, “It is not fitting that we leave God's Word and should be serving tables. Now then, brothers, examine and choose seven men from *among* you about whom is *good* testimony and who are full of The Spirit of The Lord YHWH and Wisdom, and establish them for this matter. And we will be constantly in Prayer and in the ministry of The Word.” And this word was pleasing before all the people.

And they chose Stephen, a man who was full of Faith and The Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas, and Antiochene proselyte.

These stood before the Sent Ones, and when they had prayed, they placed The Hand upon them. And God's Word was increased, and the number of the Disciples was greatly multiplied in Jerusalem. And many people from the Jews were obedient to the Faith.

Then Stephen was full of Grace and power. And he performed signs and miracles among the people. And there arose men from the synagogue, who were called the Libertines: Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and from Cilicia, and from Asia-minor; and they were disputing with Stephen.

And they were not able to rise to oppose the wisdom and The Spirit who spoke in him. Afterward, they sent men and ordered that they should say, "We heard that he spoke words of blasphemy about Moses and about God." And they disturbed the people, and the Elders, and the Scribes. And they came and stood against him and seized him, bringing him to the midst of The Council.

And they raised up false witnesses, who said, "This man doesn't cease to speak words opposing the Law and about this Holy Place. For we heard that he said, that this Jesus, the Nazarene, he will destroy this place and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." And those who were sitting in the synagogue, they all looked upon him, and they saw his face as the face of an Angel.

Chapter 7

And the Priests' Chief asked him if these things were so. He then said, "Men, brothers, and our fathers, listen! The God of Glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, while not yet coming to dwell in Haran, and had said to him: '*Go out from your land and from being with the sons of your lineage, and come to the land which I will show you.*'"

And then Abraham went out from the land of the Chaladaeans, and came to dwell in Haran. And from there, after his father had died, God moved him to this land in which you are dwelling today, and didn't give to him an inheritance in it, not even a step of his foot, and professed that He would give it to him as an inheritance, for him and for his seed, while there was no son for him.

And God had spoken with him when He said to him: '*Your seed will be strangers in a foreign land. And they will be enslaved and will be mistreated for four hundred years. And to the people whom they will be in servitude, I will judge, says God. And after this, they will go out and will work for Me in this place.*'

And He gave to him The Covenant of Circumcision. And afterward, he gave birth to Isaac, and circumcised him in the eighth day. And Isaac gave birth to Jacob, and Jacob gave birth to our twelve fathers.

And they, our fathers, were jealous with Joseph, and sold him to Egypt. And God was with him, and had delivered him from all of his afflictions, and gave him Grace and Wisdom before Pharaoh the King of Egypt, and raised him head over Egypt, and over all of his house.

And there was famine and great affliction in all of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, and there wasn't enough for our fathers. And when Jacob had heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our fathers first.

And when they had gone the second time, Joseph made his soul known to his brothers, and the lineage of Joseph was made known to Pharaoh. And Joseph had sent for and brought his father Jacob and all his lineage. And they were being in number seventy and five souls¹. And Jacob has descended to Egypt, and has died there; he and our fathers. And he had moved to Sychem and was put in the tomb which Abraham had bought with the silver from Hamor's son.

And when the time had arrived of the thing which was promised by God swearing to Abraham; the people had increased and were made strong in Egypt, until there arose another King over Egypt who had not been known to Joseph and had acted guilefully against our lineage, and had ill-treated our fathers, and had commanded that they throw away our infants so that they shouldn't live.

In that time, that one, Moses, was given birth, and grew up three months in his father's house, and was dearly loved by (to) God. And when he was thrown away from his Mother, Pharaoh's daughter found him, and raised him for herself, for a son.

And Moses was trained in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was prepared in words and also in deeds. And when he was a son of forty years, it had risen upon his heart that he should visit his brothers; the sons of Isra'El. And he saw one from the sons of his family who was oppressed with violence, and avenged him, and performed for him judgment, and killed the Egyptian who was doing wrong to him, and had hoped that his brothers, the sons of Isra'El, would understand that God was giving redemption to them through his hand. And they didn't understand.

And another day, he saw when they quarreled one with another, and had entreated for them that they should make peace, when he said: 'Men, you are brothers! On what account are you wronging one with another?'

But that one who was doing wrong with his companion pushed him away from him, and said to him, 'Who established you over us as a Chief and a Judge? Perhaps you seek to kill me as (that) you killed the Egyptian yesterday?' And Moses fled at that word, and was a sojourner in the land of Midian. And there was to him two sons.

And after forty years were fulfilled for him there, there appeared to him The Angel of The Lord YHWH in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame which burned in a thorn bush. And when Moses saw it, he was amazed at the appearance. And when he came near so that he might see it, in a voice The Lord YHWH said to him, "*I AM the God of your fathers, The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob.*" And, Moses was trembling afterward, not daring that he should look at the appearance.

And The Lord YHWH said to him: "*Loosen your sandals from your feet, for the ground upon which you stand is Holy. Seeing, I have seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and have descended so that I should deliver them. And now, come, I will send you to Egypt.*"

This Moses, with regard to whom they had denied when they said, 'Who has established you over us a Chief and a Judge?'; for God had sent this one as the Chief and the Deliverer for them, by the Angel's hand, that one who had appeared to him in the thorn bush.

This is he who brought them out when he had performed signs and miracles and wonders in the land of Egypt, and at the Sea of Reeds, and forty years in the wilderness. This is Moses, he who said to the sons of Isra'El that, "*A Prophet like me shall The Lord YHWH God raise up for you from your brothers. Listen to Him!*'

This is he who was in the assembly in the wilderness with the Angel who had spoke with him, and with our fathers at Mount Sinai, and is he who received The Living Words to give to us.

And our fathers were not willing to submit to him, but rather departed. And in their hearts they turned again to Egypt, when they said to Aaron, "Make for us gods that will go before us, because this Moses who has brought us out from the land of Egypt; we do not know what has become of him."

And in those days, he made for them the calf. And they slaughtered animal sacrifices to their sculpted images, and they were rejoicing in their hands' work.

And God turned and delivered them up so that they would be laboring for the Heaven's powers, as it is written in the writing of the Prophets: '*Was it the victim, or was it the sacrifice you brought near to Me for forty years in the wilderness, sons of Isra'El?*² *But rather, you took up the tabernacle of Milcom/Moloch, and the star of the deity of Rephan; those images which you had made so that you might bow down to them. I will remove you further away than Babel.*'³

Look, our fathers' Tabernacle of The Testimony was there in the wilderness — as He which had commanded Moses — who had spoken with him to make it in the form that He showed him.

And for this Tabernacle — also our fathers bringing it — brought it with Jesus to the land which God gave to them; the inheritance from those Nations which he had thrown out from before them, and was transported until the days of David; that one who found mercy before of God, and had asked that there be found a Tabernacle for The God of Jacob.

Yet, Solomon built The House for Him. And The Highest isn't made to dwell in the work of hands, as which the Prophet says, '*The Heavens are My throne, and the Earth is the footstool which is underneath My feet. Which is the house that you will build for Me? says The Lord YHWH. Or which is the place of My rest? Look, did not My own hand make all these things?*' Oh, you hard-necked and uncircumcised in your hearts and in your hearing!! You are constantly standing to oppose The Holy Spirit. As your fathers so also you!

For whom from the Prophets didn't your fathers persecute and kill? Those who previously spoke about the coming of The Righteous One; that One whom you delivered up and killed! And you have received the Law by means of the Angels' Command; and you did not observe it!"

And when they had heard these things, they were filled with anger in their souls, and they were gnashing their teeth at him. And he, while being full of Faith and The Holy Spirit, looked at the Heavens, and saw The Glory of God, and Jesus while standing on the right side of God.

And he said, "Look, I see the Heavens while they are opened, and The Son of Man while standing on the right side of God!"

And they were crying out with a loud voice, and were blocking their ears, and they all were rushing towards him. And having taken hold of him, they threw him outside of the city and were stoning him. And the ones who testified against him placed their garments at the feet of a young man, the one who is called Saul.

And they were stoning Stephen while he was bending down, praying, and saying, "Our Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" And while he was kneeling down, he cried out with a loud voice, and said, "Our Lord, do not establish for them this sin!" And when this was spoken, he slept.

Chapter 8

But Saul had desired and had participated in his murder. And there was in that day a great persecution for the assembly which was in Jerusalem. And they were all scattering in the villages of Judea, and even the place of the Samaritans, except (from) the Sent Ones alone.

And trustworthy men gathered him, burying Stephen, and they greatly mourned over him.

But Saul was persecuting God's assembly while he was entering (to) homes and dragging off men and women, and delivered them over to the prisoner's house. And those who were scattering went around and were proclaiming God's Word.

Then Philip descended to a city of the Samaritans and proclaimed to them about Christ. And when they were hearing his word, the sons of men who were there were listening carefully to him.

And they were persuaded of all which he had said; the ones who had seen the miraculous signs which he had performed, for many who were seized by unclean spirits were crying out in a loud voice; and they were cast out from them. And others, paralytic and lame, were healed. And great joy was in that city!

But there was one man there whose name was Simon, who had dwelt there in the city many seasons, and was deceptive with sorcery to the Samaritans' people, while he was magnifying his soul, and saying, "I am The Great One!"

And all were giving heed to him; the great and the small. And they said, "This one is God's great power!" And they were all assenting to him, because he had amazed them by his sorcery for many seasons.

But when they believed Philip who had declared The Kingdom of God in The Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, they were immersed; men and women. And even Simon himself had believed, and was immersed, and had attached himself to Philip. And when he had seen the miraculous signs and the great powers which were by his hand, he was amazed and marveled!

And when the Sent Ones who were in Jerusalem had heard that the Samaritans' people had received God's Word, they sent Simon Kefa and John to them. And they descended, and prayed over them so as that they should receive The Holy Spirit, for as yet He wasn't upon one from them, but, they were only immersed in the Name of Our Lord Jesus. Then they were placing the hand upon them, and they were receiving The Holy Spirit.

And when Simon saw that The Holy Spirit was given through the Sent Ones' hand, he offered silver to them, while he said, "And also give to me this power so that whom that I put a hand upon will receive The Holy Spirit!"

Simon Kefa said to him, “Your silver will go to ruin with you because you considered that The Gift of God is obtained with an earthly substance. There is no part for you in this Faith, not even a small fragment, because your heart has not been upright before God. However, repent from this wickedness, and beg from God so that perhaps He might forgive you for the guile of your heart, for I see that you are in the gall of bitterness *{or, in bitter malignity}* and in the bonds of wickedness!”

Simon replied and said, “Be you seeking from God for me so that not a thing from these *things* which you have said will come upon me!”

Then, Simon and John returned to Jerusalem after they had testified and taught God's Word. And they declared in many villages of the Samaritans.

And The Angel of The Lord YHWH spoke with Philip and said to him, “*Rise! Go to the South, by the desert road which descends from Jerusalem, to Gaza.*” And rising, he departed. And he met a certain trustee who had come from Ethiopia *{Cush}*; an official of Candace the Queen of the Ethiopians *{the Cushites}*. And he was authorized over all her treasury. And he had come so that he might worship in Jerusalem.

And while he was returning so that he should depart, he was sitting on a chariot and was reading in the Prophet Isaiah. And The Spirit said to Philip: “*Circle around and come near to the chariot.*”

And when he had come near, he heard that he was reading in Isaiah the Prophet, and said to him, “Do you understand what you read?”

And he said, “How am I able that I should understand except if a man should instruct me?” And he sought from him, from Philip, that he should go up and sit with him.

Yet, the passage of the Scripture which he was reading at there was this: “*As a lamb to the slaughter, He was led, and He was silent as a ewe lamb before her shearer, and thus so didn't open His mouth. In His humiliation from imprisonment and from sentence, He was led. And who of His generation will tell it that His life was taken away from the Earth?*”

And that trustee¹ said to Philip, “I inquire from you: About whom is the Prophet saying this? About himself, or about another man?”

Then Philip opened his mouth and began from this same Scripture, declaring to him about Our Lord Jesus.

And while they were going on the road, they arrived to one place in which there was water, and that trustee said, “Look, water! What is the impediment that I should be immersed?” And he commanded that the chariot should stand still, and they both descended to the water, and Philip immersed for that trustee.

And when they had ascended from the water, The Spirit of The Lord YHWH seized Philip, and no more did that trustee see him, but rather, he had departed on the road, while rejoicing!

Then Philip was found in Azotus, and from there he was led around, and declared in all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

Chapter 9

Yet, Saul was still full of threat and murderous anger against Our Lord's Disciples. And he asked for letters from the Chief Priests so that they might be given to him for Damascus; for the synagogues, so that, if he might find men or women who were proceeding in this Way, he should bind them to bring them to Jerusalem.

And while he went and began arriving to Damascus; suddenly *{from under the quietness}*, Light shone upon him from the Heavens. And he fell upon the ground and heard a voice which was speaking to him, “*Saul. Saul. Why do you persecute Me? For it is hard for you to kick the goads.*”

He responded and said, “Who are you my Lord?”

And Our Lord said, “*I AM Jesus the Nazarene, the One whom you persecute. But rise, enter the city, and there it will be spoken with you about what is fitting for you to do.*”

And the men who were going with him on the road were standing while amazed, because they were only hearing the voice, yet no man was visible to them.

And Saul rose from the ground, and there wasn't a thing visible to him while his eyes were opened. And after they took him by his hands, they entered to Damascus. And there was no sight for him *in* three days. And he didn't eat, and neither did he drink.

Yet, there was in Damascus a certain Disciple whose name was Ananias. And The Lord YHWH said to him in a vision, "*Ananias!*"

And he said, "Here I *am*, my Lord!"

And Our Lord said to him, "*Arise! Go to the street which is called Straight and inquire for Saul who is from Tarsus at the house of Judah, for look, while he prays, he sees in a vision a man whose name is Ananias, who entered and placed his hand upon him accordingly, so that his eyes might be opened.*"

And Ananias said, "My Lord, I have heard from many about this man, that he has inflicted much evil to Your holy ones in Jerusalem. And behold, also here there is for him authority from the Chief Priests, that all those who are calling on Your Name should be bound!"

The Lord YHWH said to him, "*Arise, go, because he is a vessel for Me, chosen so that he should bear My Name among the Gentiles and among Kings, and the house of the sons of Isra'El, for I will show him how much is destined for him to suffer because of My Name.*"

Afterward, Ananias went to the house, to him, and placed the hand upon him, and said to him, "Saul, my brother, Our Lord Jesus has sent me, that One who appeared to you on the road when you were coming; thus in this way so that your eyes should be opened, and to be filled with The Holy Spirit."

And at once {in the hour's son}, there fell a thing from his eyes which is compared to scales, and his eyes were opened. And having risen, *he* was immersed.

And he received food, and was strengthened. And he was *there some* days with the Disciples, those who were there in Damascus. And at once {in the hour's son}, he proclaimed in the synagogues of the Jews about Jesus, that He is The Son of God.

And all those who were hearing him were surprised, and they were saying, "Is this not that one who had persecuted all those who were calling to this name in Jerusalem? And look, certainly he was also sent (to) here for this so (as) that he should take them bound to the Chief Priests."

But Saul was further strengthened and stirred up the Jews; those who were dwelling in Damascus, while showing that this One is Christ.

And after there were many days for him there, the Jews made a plot against him so that they might kill him. Yet, the plot which they sought to do to him was known to Saul, for they were guarding the city gates day and night so that they might kill him. Then the Disciples placed him in a basket and lowered him from the wall in the night.

And he departed to Jerusalem, and had desired to join with the Disciples, and they all (from them) were afraid of him, not believing that he was a Disciple.

But Barnabas took him and brought him to the Sent Ones, and related to them how he saw The Lord YHWH on the road, and how (that) He spoke with him, and how he in Damascus spoke boldly {with an open eye} in The Name of Jesus.

And he was coming in and out together with them at Jerusalem. And he spoke boldly {with an open eye} in The Name of Jesus, and was debating with the Jews; those who understood the Greek language. But they were desiring to kill him.

And when the brothers knew it, they brought him to Caesarea by night. And they sent him from there to Tarsaus. But, nevertheless, the assembly which was in all Judea, and in Galilee, and in Samaria; there was Peace {Shlama} in it, while being built up and instructed in the reverence of God, and it was increasing in The Holy Spirit's encouragement.

And it was that, while Simon was going around in the cities, he descended also to the holy ones who were dwelling in the city of Lydda. And he found a certain man who was named Aeneas, who had lain in a bed and was paralyzed eight years.

And Simon said to him, “Aniya {Miserable one}, Jesus Christ heals (for) you. Rise and put down your bed.” And at once {in the hour's son}, he stood up! And all who were dwelling in Lydda and in Saron saw it and returned to God.

But there was a certain female Disciple in Joppa city, whose name was Tabitha. This one was wealthy in good deeds and in alms-giving which she had done. But she became sick in those days and she died, and was washed and placed in a room.

And the Disciples were hearing that Simon was in the city of Lydda, that one which is near Joppa, and they sent two men to him by whom they requested (from him) that he shouldn't neglect to come with them.

And Simon arose and went with them. And when he came, they ascended to the room. And there was gathered all the widows standing around him while weeping and showing (to) him the tunics and the cloaks; those which Tabitha had given to them when she was alive.

Then Simon sent all the men outside, and knelt upon his knees, and prayed. And he turned towards the body and said, “Tabitha, arise!” Then she opened her eyes. And she sat up when she saw Simon. And he extended his hand to her and raised her, and called for the holy ones and for the widows, and gave her to them after she was alive. And this was known in all the city, and many believed in Our Lord.

But, not a few days *after*, he was in Joppa, where he lodged in the house of Simon the tanner.

Chapter 10

Then there was a certain man, a Centurion [Captain of a hundred] in Caesarea, whose name was Cornelius, from the troop which is called Italian. And he was righteous, and he and all his house revered God; And he had done much alms-giving among the people, and was constantly beseeching God.

This one saw an Angel of Our God in an appearance openly to his face *at* the ninth hour in the daytime [3 pm], who came in to him and said to him, “Cornelius.”

And he looked at him and was afraid, and said, “What, my Lord?”

And the Angel said to him, “Your prayers and your alms-giving have ascended for a memorial before God. And now, send men to Joppa city and bring Simon, who is called Kefa. Behold, he dwells at the house of Simon the tanner, which is beside the Sea.”

And after the Angel who had spoken with him departed, he called two from the sons of his house, and a certain soldier who revered God, who was obedient to Him, and he related to them every thing which he had seen, and sent them to Joppa.

And another day while they journeyed on the road and came near to the city, Simon ascended to the housetop so that he might pray at the sixth hour [Noon]. And he was hungry and had desired that he might eat.

And while they were preparing it for him, there fell upon him amazement, and he saw the Heavens while opened, and a certain garment where it was bound at the four corners. And it was likened to a great linen sheet, and was descending from the Heavens upon the Earth.

And there was in it all animals of four feet, and the creeping thing of the Earth, and the fowl of the Heavens. And a voice came to him, which said, “Simon! Arise, slaughter, and eat!”

And Simon said, “Let it not be, my Lord! Because, always I have not eaten any which is defiled and unclean!”

And again the second time, the voice was saying to him; “That which God has cleansed, you shall not declare unclean!” Yet, this happened three times. And the garment was raised to the Heavens. And while Simon wondered in himself on what the vision was which he had seen, there arrived those

men who had been sent from Cornelius. And they inquired about that house in which Simon dwelt, and they came and stood at the gate of the courtyard. And there they were calling and were asking if Simon who was called Kefa lodged there.

And while Simon thought with regard to the vision, The Holy Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men seek for you. Arise, go down and go with them while not doubtful of mind because I am He who has sent them.”

Then Simon went down to those men, and he said to them, “I am he whom you seek. What is the cause which on account you have come?”

They said to him, “A certain man of the name Cornelius, a Centurion; upright; who reveres God, and about whom all the Jewish people testify, was spoken to in a vision from a holy Angel, that he should send to bring you to his house, and should hear The Word from you.” And Simon brought them in and received them where he dwelt. And he arose the next day and went forth, going with them. And there went with him certain men from the brothers of Joppa.

And another day, they entered to Caesarea. Then Cornelius was waiting for them, while there was gathered to him all the sons of his family, and also dearly loved friends whom he had.

And when Simon entered, Cornelius met him and fell to worship at his feet. And Simon raised him up, and said to him, “Arise! for I am also a son of man!” And while he was speaking with him, he entered and found many who had come there.

And he said to him, “You certainly know that it is not permitted for a Jewish man that he associate with a foreign man who is not a son of his lineage. But to me God has shown that I shouldn't say about a man that he is unclean or defiled. Because of this, I readily came when you sent after me. However, I ask you, on what account did you send after me?”

Cornelius said to him, “It was four days until now; behold, I am fasting, and at the ninth hour while I am praying in my house, a certain man stood there before me while clothed in white! And he said to me, ‘Cornelius, your prayers have been heard, and for your alms-givings there has been a remembrance before God. Nevertheless, send to Joppa city and bring Simon who is called Kefa. Behold, he dwells in the house of Simon the Tanner, which is beside the Sea. He will come and speak with you.’ And I sent for you at once. And you have done well to have come! And behold, we are all before you. And we desire to hear all which has been commanded to you from God.”

Simon then opened his mouth and said, “In truth, I comprehend that God doesn't favor persons {is not a receiver of faces}, but rather, all peoples which – who from them – revere Him and work righteousness are accepted by Him. For this is the word which was sent to the sons of Isra'El and declaring peace and tranquility to them by means of Jesus Christ.

This is The One who is The Lord YHWH of all! And also you, you know by The Word which has been in all of Judea, which began from Galilee, after the immersion which Johnathan proclaimed about Jesus who was from Nazareth, whom God anointed with The Holy Spirit and with power, and who went around and healed those who were damaged from evil, because God was with Him.

And we are witnesses about all which He did in all the land of Judea and Jerusalem. For this is the One the Jews lifted up upon the tree, and killed Him. And God raised Him in three days and allowed that He should boldly {with an open eye} be seen.

Yet, not to all the people, but rather, to us; (from) those whom God chose, who ate and drank with Him after His resurrection from the place of the dead, so that we should be witnesses for Him. And He commanded that we should proclaim and testify to the people, that this is the One who was appointed from God to be The Judge of the living and of the dead. And all the Prophets testify about Him that all who are believing/trusting in His Name will receive forgiveness of sins.”

And while he, Simon, was speaking these words, The Holy Spirit rested upon all who were hearing The Word! And the circumcised brothers, those who had come with him, were amazed, and wondered on that The Gift of The Holy Spirit also had been poured out upon the Gentiles, for

indeed, they were hearing them (while) speaking in certain languages and magnifying God. And Simon said, “Perhaps a man is able to prohibit water so that these should not be immersed who, look, have received The Holy Spirit like we have?” Then he appointed for them that they should be immersed in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and together they sought from him that he should abide with them some days.

Chapter 11

And the Sent Ones and the brothers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles also received God's Word. And when Simon went up to Jerusalem, those who were from the circumcised were contending with him, while saying that he had entered with uncircumcised men and had eaten with them.

And Simon was adducing one thing after another, saying to them, “While I was praying in Joppa, I saw in a vision that there was a certain garment descending, which was like a linen sheet, and was bound at the four corners. And it came down from the Heavens, and came as far as to me.

And I looked at it, and I saw that there were animals of four feet in it, and creeping things of the Earth, and also foul of the Heavens. And I heard a voice which said to me, ‘Simon! Arise, kill, and eat!’ And I said, ‘Let it not be, my Lord! Not ever has there entered to my mouth that which is unclean, and that which is defiled!’

And again the voice said to me from the Heavens, ‘The thing which God has cleansed, you shall not declare defiled!’ This happened three times, and every thing ascended to the Heavens. And in that hour, three men who were sent to me from Cornelius from Caesarea, came and stood next to the gate of the courtyard in which I was lodging.

And The Holy Spirit said to me that I should go with them, without hesitation. And also these six brothers went with me there, and we entered (to) the man's house. And he related to us how he in his house had seen an Angel who stood and said to him, ‘Send to Joppa city and bring Simon who is called Kefa, and he will speak with you words by which you will Live, you and all of your house.’

And when I was beginning to speak there, The Holy Spirit rested upon them like He previously had upon us! And I remembered The Word of Our Lord who had said: “John immersed in water, but you will be immersed in The Holy Spirit!” If God therefore gave The Gift equally to the Gentiles who believed in Our Lord Jesus Christ as also to us, who am I that I might be able to hinder God?”

And they were quiet when they heard these words. And they gave praise to God, and they were saying, “Perhaps God has also granted repentance to Life to the Gentiles!”

Yet, those who were scattered from the persecution which had happened concerning Stephen, had reached as far as Phoenicia, and even to the country of Cyprus, and to Antioch, where they were speaking The Word with no man except only with the Jews.

But there were men among them from Cyprus and from Cyrene. These were brought to Antioch, and they were speaking with the Greeks, and were declaring about Our Lord Jesus. And The Power {Hand} of The Lord YHWH was there with them, and many believed and turned to The Lord YHWH.

And this had come to be heard to the ears of the assembly's sons who are in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. And he was glad when he came there and saw The Grace of God, and had sought from them that they should be joined to Our Lord with all their heart, because he was a good man and was filled with The Holy Spirit and with Faith. And many people were added to Our Lord!

And he left there for Tarsus to seek for Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him with himself to Antioch. And they were gathering together with the assembly for a whole year, and they taught many people.

From thence, in Antioch, the Disciples were first called Christians.

And in those days prophets came there from Jerusalem. And one whose name was Agabas stood up from them and made known to them by The Spirit that a great famine was to be in all of the land.

And this famine happened in the days of Caesar Claudius. But, nevertheless, the Disciples determined that they should send for the relief of the brothers who dwelt in Judea according to what there was to each man from them, and they sent it by means of Barnabas and Saul to the Elders who were there.

Chapter 12

Then, at that time, Herod the King who is named Agrippa had placed his hands upon men who were in the assembly, so (as) that he might do harm to them. And with the sword he killed Jacob/James, the brother of John. And when he saw that this had been pleasing to the Jews, he (had) added to also seize Simon Kefa. And it was the days of Unleavened Bread.

And he took him and threw him in the prisoner's house, and delivered him over to sixteen soldiers so that they should be guarding him, so that he might deliver him to the Jewish people from after the Passover.

And while he, Simon, was kept in the prisoner's house, constant prayer was being offered from the assembly for him to God.

And in that night of the morning which it was prepared that he should be handed over, while Simon was sleeping between two soldiers and was bound with two chains, and the others were guarding the gates of the prisoner's house, The Angel of The Lord YHWH stood over him. And from him a light shone in all the place. And he poked his side and raised him up. And he said to him, "[Arise quickly!](#)" And the chains were falling from his hands. And the Angel said to him, "[Gird your loins and shod your sandals!](#)" And he did thus. And furthermore, he said to him, "[Wrap your garment, and come after me!](#)"

And he went out and departed behind him while not knowing that what was by means of the Angel was true. For he was thinking that it was a vision he was seeing. And when they passed the first and the second guard, they came to the gate of iron, and it opened for them from its own will. And when they came out and they had passed one street, the Angel departed from him.

Then Simon understood, and said, "Now I know in truth that The Lord YHWH has sent His Angel and rescued me from Herod the King's hand [[Agrippa I](#)] and from the thing which the Jews were planning against me!"

And after he understood, he came to the house of Mary, the Mother of John who is surnamed Mark, because many brothers were gathered there, and were praying. And he knocked at the gate of the courtyard, and there a young girl went out to answer him, whose name was Rhoda. And she recognized the voice of Simon, and in her joy she didn't open the gate for him, but rather turned around in a run, and said to them, "Look! Simon is standing next to the gate of the courtyard!"

They said to her, "You are certainly confused!" And she affirmed to them that this was so. They said to her, "Perhaps it's his Angel?"

And Simon knocked at the gate, and they went out and were astonished to see him! And he waved to them with his hand as to be silent, and entered, and related to them how The Lord YHWH had brought him forth from the prisoner's house, and said to them to relate these things to Jacob/James and to the brothers. And he departed, going to another place.

And when it was morning, there was much uproar between the soldiers about Simon; what had happened to him. Then when Herod sought for him, and not able to find him, he judged those Guards and commanded that they should be killed. And he went out from Judea, and was in Caesarea. And because he was angry about the Tyrians and about the Sidonians, they assembled and came together to him.

And they persuaded Blastus, the Chamberlain of the King, and they asked from him that there be tranquility for them, because the provision of the region was from the Kingdom of Herod.

Then, during a well known day, Herod was clothed with the clothes of royalty. And he sat upon The Judgment Seat and spoke with the gathering.

Then all the people cried aloud, and were saying, “These are the utterances of the voice {the daughters of the voice} of God, and they are not of a son of man!” And in return for not giving the praise to God, The Angel of The Lord YHWH struck him in that hour, and he rotted with worms and died.

And the Hopeful Message of God was proclaimed and increased! Then Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem to Antioch, after they handed over their relief. And they took John with them, the one who was surnamed Mark.

Chapter 13

Yet, there were Prophets and Teachers in the assembly of Antioch; Barnabas, and Simon who is called Niger, and Lucius who was from Cyrene city, and Manaen, son of the foster-brother of Herod the Tetrarch, and Saul.

And while they were fasting, and supplicating to God, The Holy Spirit said to them, “**Separate to Me Saul and Barnabas for the work which I have called them.**”

And after they had fasted and prayed, they placed the hand upon them, and sent them *away*. And they, after sending them from The Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia. And from there they journeyed by Sea, as far as to Cyprus. And when they had entered (to) Salamis city, they were declaring Our Lord's Word in the synagogues of the Jews, and Jonathan [John Mark] ministered to them.

And when they had gone around to all the Island, as far as Paphos city, they found a certain man, a sorcerer; a Jew who was a false prophet whose name was Bar-Shuma. This one was an adherent to a wise man who was a Proconsul, and was called Sergius Paul. And the Proconsul had called for Saul and for Barnabas, and sought that he might hear God's Word from them.

But there stood this sorcerer to oppose them; Bar-Shuma, whose name is interpreted “Elymas”, because he had desired to divert the Proconsul from the Faith.

Then Saul; he who is called Paul, was filled with The Holy Spirit, and looked at him, and said to him, “Oh! You who are entirely deceit-filled and totally evil; son of the consumer of slander [the devil's son], and the enemy of all righteousness! Will you not cease to divert the correct Way of The Lord YHWH? And now The Power of The Lord YHWH {Hand} is upon you, and you will be blind, and will not see the Sun up to a time!”

And in that hour, there fell upon him a mist and a darkness. And he went around and sought that someone might take him by the hand. And when the Proconsul saw the thing which happened, he wondered and believed in the teaching of The Lord YHWH.

Then Paul and Barnabas journeyed by Sea from Paphos city and came to Perga, city of Pamphylia. And Jonathan [John Mark] separated from them and went to Jerusalem.

Then they went out from Perga and came to Antioch, a city of Pisidia. And they entered (to) the synagogue, and sat down during the day of the Sabbath. And after the Law and the Prophets were read, the Elders of the synagogue called out to them, and they said, “Men, brothers, if there is for you a word of encouragement, speak with the people!”

And Paul arose and waved his hand, and said, “Men, sons of Isra'El and those who are revering God, listen! The God of this people chose our fathers, and exalted and made them great while they were sojourners in the land of Egypt, and brought them out from it with a high arm {great power}. And He nourished them forty years in the desert.

And He destroyed seven Nations in the land of Canaan, and gave the land *as* an inheritance for them. And He gave judges to them *for* four-hundred and fifty years, as far as to the Prophet Samuel. And then they asked for a King, and God gave to them Saul, son of Kish, a man from the Tribe of Benjamin; forty years.

And He took him away and raised up David the King for them, and testified about him, and said: ‘*I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man like to My heart. He will perform all My desires.*’ From

the seed of this one, God rose up for Isra'El according to what He promised: Jesus, the Deliverer, and sent John the Immerser before His coming, to proclaim the immersion of repentance for all the people of Isra'El.

And when John had fulfilled his ministry, he said: 'Who do you suppose that I am? I am not He. But look! He who comes after me, that One, I am not worthy that I should loosen the straps of His sandals.'

Men, brothers, sons of Abraham's lineage, and those among you who are revering God, to you The Word of Life is sent! For those; the inhabitants of Jerusalem and their rulers; they didn't perceive it, not even in the Prophets' writings which are read at every Sabbath. But rather, they judged Him, and they fulfilled all those things which were written.

And when they couldn't find a cause of death, they asked from Pilate that they might kill Him. And when they had fulfilled every thing which was written about Him, they brought Him down from the Cross, and placed Him in the tomb house. Yet, God raised Him *up* from the place of the dead! And He was seen many days to those who went up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, and these are now His witnesses to the people.

And look, we are also declaring to you that the Promise which was made to our fathers, look, God has fulfilled it for us, for their sons, in that He raised Jesus *up* according to that which is written in the second Psalm: '*You are My Son. Today I have begotten You!*' And thus, God raised Him *up* from the place of the dead so that He should not again return that He see corruption [physical decay], according to that which He has said: '*I will give to You the sure Grace of David.*'

And furthermore, He has said in another place: "*You have not allowed for Your pure One that He should see corruption,*" for David ministered the God's will in his own generation, and slept, and was added to his fathers, and has seen corruption. Yet, this One whom God has raised up hasn't seen corruption.

Now then, know my brothers, that by this One the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you! And from all that we were not able to be justified by the Law of Moses, by this One all who believe are justified! Beware therefore that perhaps there may come upon you the thing which is written in the Prophets: '*Behold you despisers, and be amazed and perish; for I do a work in your days which you will not believe if a man relates it to you.*'"

And when they had gone up from being with them, they sought from them that they might speak these words with them for the next Sabbath.

And when the synagogue was released, many Jews went after them, and also Proselytes who were revering God. And they were speaking and entreating to them so that they should adhere to The Grace of God. And the next Sabbath, all the city gathered to hear God's Word. And when the Jews saw the many gathered, they were filled with envy. And they rose up to oppose the words which Paul had spoken, and they were reviling.

And then Paul and Barnabas boldly {with an open eye} said: "It is fitting to you that you were the first to be spoken God's Word, yet, because you pushed it away from you, and you have decided about your souls that you are not worthy for Life which is everlasting, look, we turn towards the Gentiles! For thus has Our Lord commanded us, as which is written: '*I have placed you as The Light for the Gentiles, so that you should be for Life as far as the ends of the Earth.*'"

And when the Gentiles were hearing this, they were rejoicing and giving praises to God. And those who were appointed for Life, which is everlasting, believed, and The Word of The Lord YHWH was spoken in all that region. But the Jews incited the Leaders of the city, and the wealthy women, those with them who were revering God. And they rose up persecution against Paul, and against Barnabas, and they cast them *out* from their borders.

And when they went forth, they shook off the dust of their feet against them. And they came to the city of Iconium, and the Disciples were filled with joy and The Holy Spirit.

Chapter 14

And they came and entered (to) the synagogue of the Jews, and they spoke thus with them so (as) that many from the Jews and from the Greeks believed.

Then Jews, those who were not convinced, were inciting the Gentiles so that they might do harm to the brothers. And they were there a long time. And they were speaking boldly {with an open eye} about The Lord YHWH, and He witnessed about The Word of His Grace in signs and miracles, which He performed through their hands.

And all the gathering of the city were divided from those who were with the Jews, and from those who were following the Sent Ones. Then there was a threat upon them from the Gentiles, and from the Jews and their Rulers, that they should afflict them and should stone them with rocks.

And when they recognized this, they departed and took refuge in the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra, and Derbe, and the villages which surrounded them, and they were proclaiming there.

And a certain man dwelt in Lystra city who was disabled in his feet; lame from his Mother's womb, who had not ever walked. This one was listening to Paul, who was speaking. And when Paul saw him, and recognized that there was Faith in him that he might Live, he said to him in a loud voice, "To you I say, in The Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Rise upon your feet!" And he jumped up, stood still, and walked!

And the gathering of the people, when they saw the thing which Paul performed, they lifted up their voice in the language of the region, and said, "The gods resemble the sons of men, and they have come down to us!" And they called Barnabas 'The lord of the gods', and Paul 'Hermes', because he had begun with the matter.

And the priest of the gods' lord, that one who was outside of the city, brought oxen and crowns to the gate of the courtyard of the place which they were lodging, and was desiring that he might sacrifice to them.

But Barnabas and Paul, they tore their garments when they had heard it. And going out to the crowd, they leaped up, and were crying out, and they said, "Men, what are you doing? We also are sons of men! We have feelings like you do. We who are declaring to you that you should turn from these vanities towards The Living God; He who made the Heavens and the Earth and the Seas, and all which are in them. That One who in former generations had allowed for all the peoples that they should go in the way of their own souls, while not leaving His Soul without testimony in as much as He is performing good for them from the Heavens, and is sending down rain for them, and is increasing fruits in their seasons, and is filling them with nourishment and pleasantness for their hearts."

And while they were saying these things, they barely restrained the people that someone should not sacrifice to them! Then there came Jews from Iconium to there, and from Antioch. And they stirred up the people against them, and they stoned Paul. And they dragged him outside of the city, because they thought him to be dead. And the Disciples gathered over him, and he rose up, entering the city.

And the next day he went out from there with Barnabas, and they came to Derbe city. And when they had declared to the sons of that city, many were discipled. And turning back, they came to Lystra city, and to Iconium, and to Antioch, where they were strengthening the souls of the Disciples, and were seeking from them that they should remain in the Faith, and were saying to them that it is fitting to enter to The Kingdom of God through much affliction.

And they raised up Elders for them in every assembly, after they had fasted and prayed with them, and had entrusted them to Our Lord, that One in whom they believed.

And after they had gone around in the region of Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia. And after they had spoken The Word of The Lord YHWH in Perga city, they descended to Attalia. And from there they journeyed by Sea and came to Antioch, because from there they were entrusted to The Grace of The Lord YHWH to the work which they had completed.

And when all the assembly were gathered, they were relating every thing which God had performed with them, and that He had opened The Door of Faith to the Gentiles. And they were there a long time with the Disciples.

Chapter 15

Then there came some down from Judea. And they were teaching (to) the brothers that if you are not circumcised (with regard to the custom of the Law), you are not able to be made alive. And there was much disturbance and disputation with them for Paul and for Barnabas.

And it happened that Paul and Barnabas, and others with them, should go up to the Sent Ones and the Elders who were in Jerusalem because of this question. And being escorted, the assembly sent them, and they were journeying in all of Phoenicia, and also the Samaritans' place, where they were relating about the restoration of the Gentiles. And they were causing great joy for all the brothers.

And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received from the assembly, and from the Sent Ones, and from the Elders, and they related to them all that God had done with them.

Then there arose some from the teaching of the Pharisees who were believers, and they said that "It is proper to circumcise them, and they should be commanded that they should keep the Law of Moses." Then the Sent Ones and the Elders assembled so that they should see about this matter.

And while there was much dispute, Simon arose and said to them, "Men, brothers, you know that from the first days, from my own mouth, God has chosen that the Gentiles should hear the Word of the Hopeful Message, and should believe! And God who knows that which is in the hearts testified about them, and gave (to) them The Holy Spirit, as to us, and didn't distinguish a thing between us and for them, because He cleansed their hearts by Faith.

And now you! Why do you test God as that you should put a yoke upon the Disciples' necks, which not even our fathers nor we were able to carry? But rather, by the Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we are believing, just as they are, that we will Live."

And all of the council were silent, and they were listening to Paul and to Barnabas who were relating all that which God had done through their hands; signs and wonders among the Gentiles.

And after that they were silenced, Jacob/James arose and said, "Men, brothers, hear me! Simon has related to us how God began to choose a people from the Gentiles, for His Name. And this, fulfilling the words of the Prophets according to what is written: *'After this I will return, and establish the Tabernacle of David, which has fallen, and will build the thing which has fallen from it, and will establish it thus in this way so that the rest of the sons of men should seek for The Lord YHWH, and all the Gentiles who have called on My Name, says The Lord YHWH who performs all these things.'*

The works of God are known from eternity! Because of this, I am ordering that they not be harassing (to) those who are turning to God from the Gentiles, but rather, we should send to them that they should be abstaining from the uncleanness of that which is sacrificed, and from fornication, and from that which is strangled, and from blood. For Moses, from previous generations, in every city, there is for him heralds in the synagogues who every Sabbath proclaim for him."

Then the Sent Ones and the Elders, with all the assembly, selected men from themselves, and sent them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; Judah who is called Barsabas, and Silas; men who were leaders with them among the brothers. And they wrote a letter by their hands, thus: "*The Sent Ones, and the Elders, and the brothers: To those who are in Antioch, and in Syria, and in Cilicia; brothers who are from the Gentiles:*

Peace! It was heard to us that men from us had went out, and were troubling you with words, and overthrowing your souls when they were saying that you are to be circumcised, and be observing the Law; that which we have not commanded them! Because of this, when we were all assembled, we had determined and chose men, and have sent them to you with Paul and Barnabas, our dear ones; men who have delivered their souls up for The Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

And we sent with them Judah and Silas so that they by word should speak to you these things. For it was pleasing to The Holy Spirit, and also to us, that there shouldn't be put on you a greater burden, except from these things which are necessary: That you keep away from that which is sacrificed, and from blood, and from the strangled, and from fornication. That you will do well when you keep your souls from these things. Be steadfast in Our Lord!"

Then, those who were sent came to Antioch and gathered all the people, and gave them the letter. And they rejoiced and were encouraged when they read it. And they were strengthening the brothers with copious speech; and Judah and Silas were establishing those of the place, because they also were Prophets.

And after they were there a time, the brothers dismissed them in Peace, to the Sent Ones. Yet, Paul and Barnabas were remaining in Antioch, and they were teaching and declaring God's Word, with many others.¹

And after some days, Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brothers who are in every city in which we have proclaimed God's Word, and will see what they have been doing." Then Barnabas was desiring that they might take John who is surnamed Mark.

Yet, Paul was not willing that he should be taken with them, because he had left them while they were in Pamphilia, and didn't go with them. On account of this contention, they separated one from the other, and Barnabas took Mark, and they journeyed by Sea, and went to Cyprus. Then Paul chose for himself Silas, and went out after being entrusted to The Grace of God, from the brothers. And he journeyed in Syria and in Cilicia and established the Assemblies.

Chapter 16

And he arrived to Derbe city, and to Lystra. Then there was there a certain Disciple whose name was Timothy, the son of a certain Jewess; a believer. And his father was an Aramaean. And all the Disciples who were from Lystra and from Iconium were testifying about him. Paul desired to take this one with him. And he took him, and circumcised him because of the Jews who were there in the region, for they all knew that his father was an Aramaean.

And while they were going among the cities, they were proclaiming, and teaching to them that they should be observing those Commands which the Sent Ones and the Elders who were in Jerusalem had written.

Also, the Assemblies were established in the Faith, and were daily increasing in number. Then they proceeded in the regions of Phrygia and in Galatia. And The Holy Spirit held them back so that they shouldn't speak God's Word in Asia-Minor.

And when they had come to the region of Mysia, they were desiring that they should go from there to Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus didn't permit them to.

And after they had gone out from Mysia, they came to the region of Troas. And Paul saw in a vision of the night a certain man; a Macedonian, who stood and sought from him while saying, "Come to Macedonia and help me!" Then, when Paul had seen this vision, at once, he desired to go forth to Macedonia, because he understood that Our Lord had called us so that we should declare The Hope to them.

And we journeyed from Troas and straight to Samothracia, and from there we came to Neapolis city the day after. And from there to Philippi, which is the chief city of Macedonia and (is) a colony. Then we were in that city certain days.

And we went forth on the day of the Sabbath, outside from the gate of the city, on the side of the river, because there was seen a prayer house. And after we were seated, we were speaking with the women who were gathered there.

And a certain woman, a seller of purple [purple dyes or garments] who revered God, her name being Lydia from Thyatira city, this one's heart Our Lord opened. And she listened to the thing which Paul was speaking, and she was immersed; she and the sons of her house.

And she was seeking from us, and said, "If it is that you are truly confident that I have believed in Our Lord, come, lodge in my house." And she greatly urged us. And it happened that when we went to the prayer house, a certain young girl met us in whom there was a spirit of divination. And she had performed for her masters much business by her divining of divination.

And she came behind Paul, and behind us, and cried out, and said, "These men, they are the servants of God The Highest, and they are declaring the Way of Life to you!"

And thus she had done many days. And Paul became angry and said to that spirit, "I command (to) you in The Name of Jesus Christ, that you come out from her!" And in that hour, it came out.

And when her masters had seen that the hope of their business had been cast out from her, they held fast to Paul and to Silas, and they beat them, bringing them to the marketplace. And they brought them near to the Prefects, and to the Chiefs of the city, and they were saying, "These men are troubling to our city, because they are Jews, and are proclaiming to us those customs which are not permitted for us to accept and to do because we are Romans."

And a great crowd gathered against them. Then the Prefects tore off their garments and they commanded that they should be beaten. And after they had beaten them greatly, they cast them in the prisoner's house, and commanded the guards of the prisoner's house that they should guard them securely. Then he, after he received this command, brought them confined into the inner house of the prisoner's house, and bound their feet in shackles.

And in the middle of the night, Paul and Silas were praying and giving praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. And suddenly {from the quiet} there was a great earthquake, and it shook the foundation of the prisoner's house. And at once, all the doors were opened and the bonds of all were loosened.

And when the guard of the prisoner's house awoke and saw that the doors of the prisoner's house were opened, he took a sword and sought that he should kill his soul, because he (had) supposed that the captives had fled.

And Paul cried out in a loud voice, and said to him, "Do not do to yourself something which is evil, because we are all here!" And he lit a lamp for himself and leaped up, and entered while trembling, and fell at the feet of Paul and of Silas.

And he brought them outside, and said to them, "My masters, what is proper for me to do so as that I might Live?"

And they were saying to him, "Believe in Our Lord Jesus Christ, and you will Live; you and your house." And they were speaking The Word of The Lord YHWH with him and with all the sons of his house. And in that hour, in that night, he took them to wash them from their wounds. And in the hour's son, he was immersed, and all the sons of his house. And he led them up to his house, and set the table for them. And he rejoiced in the Faith of God, he and the sons of his house.

And when it was morning, the Prefects sent the staff-bearers so that they should say to the Chief of the captives, "Loose those men."

And when the Chief of the prisoner's house heard, he entered and spoke to Paul this word: "The Prefects have sent so that you should be loosed. And now go out. Depart in Peace!"

Paul said to him, "Without wrong-doing they have beaten us; Roman men, before the eyes of all the world! And they threw us in the prisoner's house, and now, secretly, they send us out? Not so! But rather, they will come to bring us out!"

And the staff-bearers departed, and they spoke to the Prefects these words which were told to them. And when they heard that they were Romans, they feared. And they came towards them and sought from them that they should go out and (to) depart from the city.

And when they had gone forth from the prisoner's house, they came to Lydia and saw the brothers there, and they comforted them, and they went forth.

Chapter 17

And they passed by Amphipolis and Apollonia cities. And they came to Thessalonica where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And Paul went in to them, as was his custom, and was speaking with them *for* three Sabbath's from the Scriptures, where he was explaining and was showing that, "Christ had been destined that He should suffer, and that He should rise from the place of the dead, that is to say, Jesus Christ, this One whom I declare to you."

And men from them believed, and they were cleaving to Paul and to Silas, and many from the Greeks; those who were revering God; and not a few were also well known women.

And the Jews were envious. And they joined together evil men from the market-place of the city. And they formed a great crowd, and they were troubling the city. And they came and stood against the house of Jason, and they were seeking to bring them out from there and deliver them to the crowd.

And when they didn't find them there, they dragged Jason and the brothers who were there, and brought them to the Chiefs of the city, where they were crying out, "These are they who have been troubling the whole land, and look! They have furthermore come to here! And their host is this Jason! And all these are standing opposed to the commands of Caesar, while they are saying that there is another King; Jesus!"

Then, when the Leaders of the city and all the people heard these things, they were troubled. And they received pledges from Jason, and also from the brothers, and then they loosed them. Then, in the hour's son, in that night, the brothers dismissed Paul and Silas to Beroea city.

And when they came to there, they entered into the synagogue of the Jews, for those Jews who were there were nobler than the Jews who were in Thessalonica. And they were gladly hearing The Word from them every day, while they were discerning from the Scriptures if these things were thus so. And many from them believed, and thus, also from the Greeks; many men and many notable women.

And when the Jews, those who were from Thessalonica knew that God's Word had been proclaimed from Paul in Beroea city, they also came to there, and didn't cease being troubling and agitating to men. And the brothers removed Paul so that he should go down to the Sea. And Silas and Timothy remained in the city.

And those who escorted for Paul, went with him as far as Athens city. And when they went forth from being with him, they received from him a letter to Silas and Timothy, that they quickly should go to him.

Then he, Paul, while he waited in Athens, became grieved in his spirit when he had seen that the entire city was full of idols. And he spoke in the synagogue with the Jews, and with those who were revering God, and in the market-place with those who were coming there every day, and also the Philosophers who were from the teaching of Epicurus.

And others who were called Stoics were debating with him. And certain men from them were saying, "What does *that* babbling *{word-gatherer}* want?" And others were saying "He is proclaiming strange deities," because he was proclaiming Jesus and His Resurrection to them.

And they took him and they brought him to The House of Judgment, which is called the Areopagus, where they said to him, "Are we able to know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming? For you sow strange words in our hearing, and we are desiring to know what these *things* are." But all the Athenians and those foreigners who were coming there for another thing they didn't care for, except to speak and to hear something new.

And as Paul stood in the Areopagus, he said, "Men, Athenians, I see that for you all there is excessive reverence of demons. For while I was going around, and had seen the place of your reverence, I found a certain altar upon which was written: "The Altar of the unknown God". That One, therefore, that while you do not know, you revere; I am declaring this One to you! For God who made the world, and all which is in it, and He, The Lord of the Heavens and of the Earth, He does

not dwell in temples which are made by hands. And neither is He served from the hands of the sons of men. And about Him, not a thing is needed, because He has given life and soul to every man. And from one blood He made the whole world of the sons of men, so that they should be dwelling upon the face of all the Earth.

And He has distinguished the seasons by His command, and placed the boundaries of the habitation of the sons of men so that they should be seeking and looking for God and *one* might find Him from the creation, for, because even He isn't entirely distant from us, for '*In Him we are living and we are moving and we exist*,' as which also wise men from you have said, '*From Him is our lineage*.'

Therefore, men whose lineage is from God, we shouldn't be guilty for hoping that gold or silver or stone, which is carved by the skill and by the knowledge of a son of man, that it is comparable to the Divinity, for God has caused the times for error to pass.

And His command to all the sons of men in this time is that: Every man in every place should repent, because He has established a Day that, in it He has destined that He should judge the whole Earth with righteousness, by means of the Man whom He has appointed, and has turned back for every man, to His Faith, by raising Him *up* from the place of the dead."

And when they heard of The Resurrection from the place of the dead, some from them were mocking, and some from them were saying, "We will hear you about this, another time."

And thus, Paul went out from among them. And men from them believed and they joined him. Yet, one from them was Dionysius of the Judges of the Areopagus, and a certain woman whose name was Damaris, and others with them.

Chapter 18

And when Paul went out from Athens, he came to Corinth. And he found there a certain man, a Jew whose name was Aquila, who was from the region *of* Pontus, who at that time had come from the region of Italy; he and his Wife Priscilla; because Claudius Caesar had commanded that all the Jews should be cast out from Rome. And he drew near to them.

And because he was a son of their craft, he lodged with them, and labored with them, for in their craftsmanship they were workers in rough cloth [*"harness makers" or possibly "tent makers"*].

And he spoke in the synagogue on every Sabbath and persuaded the Jews and the Pagans. And when Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was constrained in his speech, because there were Jews standing to oppose him.

And they were reviling while he was testifying to them that Jesus, the very same, is Christ. And he shook off his garments, and said to them, "I am clean from now on. I go to the Gentiles!" And he went out from there and entered to the house of a man whose name was Titus, who revered God. And his house was connected to the synagogue.

And Qrispaus, the Chief of the synagogue, became a believer in Our Lord; he and all the sons of his house. And many Corinthians heard, and they were believing in God, and were being immersed.

And The Lord YHWH spoke in a vision to Paul: "*You shall not fear but rather speak, and do not be silent, because I am with you, and a man isn't able to harm you. And many people are for Me in this city.*"

Then he dwelled one year and six months in Corinth and taught God's Word to them.

And it happened while Gallio was Proconsul of Achaia, *that* the Jews gathered together against Paul. And they brought him before The Judgment-Seat, while they were saying: "This one persuades the sons of men to revere God apart from the Law!"

And while Paul sought that he should open his mouth and to speak, Gallio spoke to the Jews, "If for a thing that is evil, or that is deceitful, or that is detestable, is your accusation, O Jews; I receive you appropriately, but if they are accusations about words and about names, and about your own Law; you determine it among yourself; for I do not desire that I should be the judge of these matters."

And he expelled them from his Judgment-Seat. And all the Pagans took hold of Sosthenes, the Elder of the synagogue, and they were beating him before The Judgment-Seat. And Gallio was disregarding in these things.

And after Paul was there many days, he gave Peace [a blessing of well being] to the brothers, and journeyed by Sea so that he should go to Syria. And he brought Priscilla and Aquila with him, after he had shaved his head at Cenchrea because of the vow which he had vowed for himself.

And they arrived to Ephesus. And Paul entered to the synagogue and was speaking with the Jews. And they were seeking from him that he should remain a long time with them, and he wasn't persuaded, while he said, "It is proper for me that I always perform The Festival which is coming at Jerusalem. And if God wills, I will return again to you." And Aquila and Priscilla; they were left in Ephesus.

And he journeyed by Sea and came to Caesarea, and went up and asked for (with regard to) the Peace [well-being] of the assembly's sons, and *then* departed for Antioch. And after he was there specific days, he went out and went around successively in the region of Phrygia and of Galatia, where he established all the Disciples.

And a certain man whose name was Apollos, a Jew who was of the clan from Alexandria, and was fluent in speech, and well versed in the Scriptures; came to Ephesus. This one had joined (to) The Way of The Lord YHWH and was fervent in spirit, and was speaking and teaching strongly about Jesus, while he wasn't knowing a thing, except only Jonathan's [John's] immersion. And he began speaking boldly {with an open eye} in the synagogue.

And when Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they brought him to their home and fully showed him The Way of The Lord YHWH. And when he desired that he should go to Achaia, the brothers urged him on. And they wrote to the Disciples that they should receive him. And while he went, he had aided much to all The Believers by *the* means of Grace, for he debated mightily against the Jews before their gatherings, while showing about Jesus from the Scriptures, that He is Christ.

Chapter 19

And it was while Apollos was in Corinth *that* Paul went around in the upper regions and came to Ephesus, and asked the Disciples whom he had found there if they had received The Holy Spirit from after they had believed?

They responded and said to him, "And even if there is a Holy Spirit, it hasn't been announced to us."

He said to them, "And into what were you immersed?"

They were saying, "Into Jonathan's [John's] immersion."

Paul said to them, "John immersed for the peoples, the immersion of repentance, while saying that they should believe in The One who was coming after him, that is, Jesus Christ." And when they heard these things, they were immersed in The Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. And Paul placed the hand on them, and The Holy Spirit came upon them, and they were speaking in certain languages, and were prophesying, yet, it so happened *that* there was twelve men in all.

And Paul entered (to) the synagogue and spoke boldly {with an open eye} *for* three months, and was persuasive about The Kingdom of God. And men from them were hardened and were arguing, and were reviling to God's Way before the gathering of the people.

Then Paul departed and separated the Disciples from them. And he was speaking with them everyday at the school of a man whose name was Tyrannus. And this continued two years, until all those who were dwelling in Asia heard The Word of The Lord YHWH; Jews and Arameans.

And God performed great miracles by Paul's hand, thus so that even from his garments — which were upon his body — they were bringing cloth, or pieces of cloth, and placing them upon the sick, and the sicknesses departed from them, and also the demons were cast out!

Then it was also that *there* were Jewish men who desired that they might go around and adjure about

the demons (so that they might adjure) in The Name of Our Lord Jesus regarding those to whom were unclean spirits, while they were saying, “We adjure to you in The Name of Jesus whom Paul proclaims!” that is to say, there were seven sons of a certain man, a Jew; a Chief of the Priests whose name was Sceva, who were doing this.

And the demon, that evil one, answered, and said to them, “I am informed about Jesus, and Paul I know; but, you... who are you?” And the man in whom there was the evil spirit, jumped upon them, and prevailed against them, and overcame them. And they fled from that one’s house while they were naked and wounded!

And this became known to all the Jews and the Arameans who were dwelling in Ephesus, and awe fell upon all. And The Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ was exalted. And many (from those) who were believers came. And they told *about* their faults, and were confessing about the things which they were doing.

And then many sorcerers also gathered. And having brought their books, they burned them before every man. And they calculated their value, and it rose to five thousand silver *pieces*! And thus the Faith of God prevailed and increased in great power.

Then, after these *things* were completed, Paul was set in his mind that he should go around in all Macedonia and Achaia, and to depart to Jerusalem. And he said, “When in any event that I have gone to there, it is proper for me to also see Rome.” And he sent two men from those who were ministering to him to Macedonia; Timothy and Erastus. But he remained a time in Asia.

Then, at that time, it happened *that* there was a great disturbance about God’s Way on that matter *that* there was there a worker of silver, one whose name was Demetrius, who made shrines of silver for Artemis. And he was gaining great abundance for the sons of his trade.

This one gathered all the sons of their trade, and those who were laboring with them, and said to them, “Men, you know that all our merchandise is from this work. Also, you are hearing and you are seeing that not only you, the sons of Ephesus, but also (to) the multitude of all Asia this Paul has persuaded, and has changed them, while he says that they are not deities which are made by the hands of the sons of men.

And neither is this matter only exposed and stopped, but also is the great goddess Artemis’s temple counted as for nothing! And also, she, the goddess of all *of* Asia, and whom all nations bow down to, is despised!”

And they were filled with rage when they heard these things, and they were crying out, and saying, “Great is the Ephesians’ Artemis!” And all *of* the city was disturbed. And they ran together and went to the Amphitheater, and they had seized and taken with them Gaius and Aristarchus; Macedonia men; sons of the company of Paul.

And Paul desired that he might enter to the Amphitheater, and the Disciples were restraining him, and even the Chiefs of Asia, because they were his friends. They sent that he should enter (to) the Amphitheater, *thus* seeking from him that he shouldn’t give his soul.

Then the crowd which was in the Amphitheater were excessively disturbed. And certain others were crying out. But many from among them were not informed about why they had been gathered. Then the Jewish people who were there, appointed a man from *among* them, a Jew whose name was Alexander. And when he stood up, he waved his hand, and was desiring that he might make a defense {send out a breath} to the people.

And when they recognized that he was a Jew, they all cried out in one voice *for* about two hours, “Great is the Ephesians’ Artemis!”

And the Chief of the city quieted them when he said to them, “Men! Ephesians! For who is it from the sons of men who doesn’t know the city of the Ephesians, that she is the Priestess of the great Artemis and the image which fell from the Heavens? Now then, because no man is able to speak to oppose this, it is proper for you that you be at ease, and not do something in haste, for you have

brought these men while they are not temple robbers, and neither have they reviled our goddess. But if this Demetrius and the sons of his trade have a judgment with a man, look! The Proconsul is in the city. The artisans, they shall come, and shall have a judgment one with the other.

And if it is that you are seeking something different in the place that is allowed from the Law to assemble, it shall be decided, because we are even now standing in danger of being blamed as rioters, as we are not able to give an answer {send forth a breath} about this day's gathering which we have gathered in vain, and stirred up without a cause." And after these things were said, he dismissed the crowd.

Chapter 20

And after that disturbance had ceased, Paul called for the Disciples and encouraged them, and kissed them, and went out; departing to Macedonia. And after he had gone around to those regions and comforted them with many words, he came to the region of Greece, and was there *for* three months.

Then, when he was prepared to go to Syria, the Jews made a plot against him, and he determined that he should return to Macedonia.

And Sopater who was from Beroea city, went out with him as far as *to* Asia, and Aristarchus and Secundus who were from Thessalonica, and Gaius who was from Derbe city, and Timothy who was from Lystra, and Tychicus and Trophimus from Asia. These departed before us, and they waited for us at Troas.

Then, after The Days of The Feast of The Unleavened Bread, we went out from Philipi, the city of the Macedonians, and we journeyed by Sea for five days.

And we came to Troas, and we were there *for* seven days. And on the first day of the week, when we were gathering so that we should break the Thanksgiving-Bread, Paul was speaking with them because he was prepared to go out the next day. And he was speaking for a long time; until the middle of the night.

And there were many lamps of fire there in the room, that one in which we had gathered. And there sat in the window a certain young man whose name was Euthychus. And he was listening, and he sank into a heavy sleep while he, Paul, was a long time in *the* speech. And in his sleep, he fell from the third floor, and was taken up while dead.

And going down, Paul fell on the side of him and embraced him, and said, "Do not be troubled, because his soul is in him!" Then, after he had gone up, he broke bread and tasted it, and was speaking until the rise of the morning. And then, he went forth to go by land. And they took the young man while alive, and they greatly rejoiced in him!

Then we went down to the ship, and we journeyed to the appointed meeting place of Thasos, because, from there we were prepared that we should receive Paul, for thus he had commanded us when he departed by land.

Then, after we had received him from Thasos, we took him by ship and came to Mitylene. And from there, to the next day, we journeyed toward Chios island. And again, the next day we came to Samos and remained at Trogyllium. And the next day, we came to Miletus, for Paul had decided for himself that he should pass by Ephesus, lest he should be delayed there — because he was in a hurry — that if he was able that he might celebrate The Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem.

And from Miletus he sent to bring the Elders of the assembly of Ephesus. And when they came to him, he said to them, "You yourselves know that from the first day that I entered to Asia, how I was with you all the time, while I was laboring for God in humility, and in many tears, and in those trials which had happened due to the plots of the Jews, I wasn't neglectful in a thing that was profitable for your souls, so that I might proclaim to you, and teach in the streets and in the houses, while I was testifying to Jews and to Arameans about repentance to God, and the Faith which is in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

And now I am bound by The Spirit; and I go to Jerusalem, and I don't know what will happen to me in it. However, The Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city, and says, 'Chains and afflictions are prepared for you.' But for me, I do not count my soul a thing so as that I should complete my course and the Ministry that I received from Our Lord Jesus, so that I should testify about The Hopeful Message of The Grace of God.

And now I am informed that you will not see my face again; all of you to whom I have gone around proclaiming the Kingdom. On this account I testify to you this very day; that I am clean from the blood of you all, for I didn't shrink back, so that you might know the whole will of God.

Be careful therefore with your souls, and with all the flock; that one in which The Holy Spirit has established you as the Overseers, so that you should tend to the assembly of Christ, that One who acquired it with His blood, for I know that, after I have departed, there will enter with you strong wolves who will have no pity on the flock.

And also from you; of your own; men will arise, speaking perversions so as to turn around the Disciples (so) that they should go away after them. Because of this, be watching! And remember that, for three years, I didn't cease in the night and in the daytime while in tears, admonishing each man from you.

And now I entrust you to God and to The Word of His Grace, He who is able to build you up and give (to) you the inheritance with all the holy ones. I have not desired silver, or gold, or garments. And you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my needs, and for those who were with me.

And every thing I've shown you that, thus: It is proper to toil, and to take care of those who are weak, and to remember the words of Our Lord Jesus, because He said: 'More blessed are those who give, than who receive.'"

And after he said these things, he knelt upon his knees and prayed, and all the men with him. And there was great weeping among all, and they embraced him and were kissing him, but they were especially agonizing about his statement (that which he had said); that it was destined that they wouldn't see his face again. And they accompanied him as far as to the ship.

Chapter 21

And we separated from them, and we journeyed straight to Kaw island. And the next day, we came to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. And we found a ship there which was going to Phoenicia. And we went up to it, and we journeyed. And we reached as far as to Cyprus island. And we departed it to the left.

And we came to Syria, and from there we came to Tyre, for there the ship was to put off its cargo. And when we found Disciples there, we remained with them seven days. And everyday these were saying by The Spirit to Paul that he shouldn't go to Jerusalem.

And after those days, we went out so that we should go on the way. And they were accompanying us, all of them, they and their women and their sons, as far as outside from the city. And they knelt upon their knees on the side of the Sea, and they prayed. And we kissed each other. And we ascended to the ship, and they returned to their houses.

Then we journeyed from Tyre, and we came to Accho city. And we gave Peace to the brothers who were there, and we lodged with them one day.

And the next day we went out and we came to Caesarea. And we entered, lodging in the house of Philip, the Declarer of The Hope, one who was from the seven [see 6:3]. And there was to him four virgin daughters who prophesied.

And after we were there many days, there had come down a certain Prophet from Judea whose name was Agabus. And he entered to us and removed the loins strap of Paul, and bound his own feet and his hands, and said, "Thus says The Holy Spirit: 'In such a way will the Jews bind the man the owner of this strap in Jerusalem, and will deliver him into the Gentiles' hands.'"

And after we heard these words, we were begging him; we and the sons of the region, that he shouldn't go to Jerusalem.

Then Paul responded, and said, "What are you doing, that you are weeping, and you are breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also that I should die in Jerusalem for the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ!"

And when he was not reconciled to us, we ceased, and we said to him, "Our Lord's will, will be."

And after those days, we prepared and we went up to Jerusalem. And there came with us men; Disciples from Caesarea, while leading a certain brother with them, from the first Disciples whose name was Mnason, and who was from Cyprus, who was to receive us in his house.

And when we had come to Jerusalem the brothers gladly received us. And the next day, we entered there with Paul to Jacob/James where all the Elders were with him. And we gave Peace to them.

And Paul related to them successively all that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. And when they heard, they gave praise to God.

And they said to him, "You see our brother how many tens of thousands there are in Judea who have believed? And all of these, they are zealous of the Law! But it was said to them about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles that: 'They should separate from Moses', while you are saying that: 'They shouldn't be circumcising their sons and not be walking in the customs of the Law.'

On account therefore, that it will be announced to them that you have come here, perform the thing which we are saying to you: For us are four men who have vowed to themselves that they should be cleansed. Take them and go be cleansed with them, and pay their expense so that they should have their heads shaved.

And every man will know that the thing which was said about you is a lie, and that to the Law: You obey it, and you guard it. But about those who believe from *among* the Gentiles, we wrote that they should be keeping their souls from what is sacrificed and from fornication, and from the strangled, and from blood."

Then Paul lead them, those men, the next day. And he was cleansed with them, and entered, going to the temple, while he made known to them the completion of the days of cleansing, until that they had offered the sacrifice of each man from them.

And when the seventh day arrived, Jews who were from Asia-Minor saw him in the temple, and they incited all the people against him. And they threw their hands upon him, while they were crying out, and they were saying, "Men! Sons of Isra'El! Help! This is the man who opposes our own people, teaching in every place, and opposes the Law, and opposes this place! And even has brought Arameans to the temple, and defiled this holy place!", for they had seen him beforehand in the city with Trophimus the Ephesian, and they were supposing that he entered with Paul to the temple.

And all the city was disturbed. And all the people gathered, and they seized Paul, and they dragged him outside from the temple, and in the hour's son {at once}, they shut the gates. And while the crowd was seeking to kill him, the Captain [of a thousand] of the troop heard that all the city was disturbed.

And in the hour's son, he lead a Centurion and many soldiers, and they ran upon them. And when they saw the Captain and the soldiers, they ceased from striking Paul. And the Captain came near to him, and took hold of him, and commanded that he should be bound with two chains. And he was asking about him; who he was; what he had done.

And persons from the crowd were crying out certain things against him, and because of their clamor, he wasn't able to know what was true. And he commanded that he should be brought to the fortress. And when Paul reached the stairway, the soldiers carried him by reason of the people's violence, for there came many people after him, and they were crying out, and were saying, "Take him away!"

And when they arrived to enter to the fortress, he, Paul, said to the Captain, “If you allow me, I will speak with you.”

He then said to him, “Do you know Greek? Are you not the Egyptian who before these days stirred up and led out four thousand men, evildoers, to the wilderness?”

Paul said to him, “I am a Jewish man from Tarsus of Cilicia, a notable city in which I was born. I am seeking from you, allow me to speak to the people.” And when he allowed him, Paul stood on the stairs and waved his hand to them. And after they were quiet, he spoke the Hebrew [i.e. Aramaic] with them, and said to them,

Chapter 22

“Brothers and fathers! Be hearing my defense {the going out in my breath} that is before you!”

And when they heard that he was speaking the Hebrew with them, they were especially quiet. And he said to them, “I am a Jewish man, and I was born in Tarsus of Cilicia. But I grew up in this city, at the side of Gamaliel’s feet. And I was instructed perfectly in our father’s Law, and was zealous of God, like to what also all of you are.

And I persecuted this Way as far as to death, while binding men and women, and delivering them to the prisoner’s house, according to what, which the Chief Priests, and all the Elders testify about me, that I received letters from them so that I should go to the brothers who were in Damascus, so that those who were there, they also should be brought to Jerusalem, while bound, and should receive punishment on the head.

And while I was going and began to reach to Damascus, in the middle of the day, suddenly {from under the calm}, there shone a Great Light upon me from the Heavens. And I fell upon the ground, and heard a voice that was saying to me, ‘Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute Me?’

I then answered, and said, ‘Who are you, my Lord?’

And He said to me, ‘I am Jesus the Nazarene whom you persecute.’ And the men who were there with me saw the Light, but they didn’t understand the voice, that One which was speaking with me.

And I said, ‘What shall I do, my Lord?’

And Our Lord said to me, ‘Arise, go to Damascus, and there will be spoken with you about every thing which is appointed for you to do.’ And while there was no sight for me because of the Glory of the Light; those who were with me took me by my hands and brought me to Damascus.

And one man, Ananias; upright in the Law; as all the Jews there were testifying about him, came to me, and said to me, ‘My brother Saul, open your eyes!’ And in that hour, my eyes opened, and I looked at him.

And he said to me, ‘Our fathers’ God has established you to know His will and to see The Righteous One, and to hear the voice from His mouth, and for you to become a witness to all sons of men regarding all of which you have seen and have heard. And now, why do you tarry? Rise up! Be Immersed and be cleansed from your sins while you call upon His name.’

And I returned, came to here; to Jerusalem; and prayed in the temple. And I saw Him in a vision while He said to me, ‘Be quick and go forth from Jerusalem, because they will not receive your testimony which is about Me.’

And I said, ‘My Lord, they also know that I delivered to the prisoner’s house and beat those who were believing in You in all the synagogues! And when the blood poured out of Stephen Your martyr/witness I also was standing with them and fulfilled the desires of his murderers, and watched over their garments; those who were stoning him.’

And He said to me, ‘Go! For I am sending you far off to proclaim to the Gentiles!’”

And when they heard Paul up to this word, they raised their voices and cried out, “This one of such a sort should be taken from the Earth! For it is not fitting for him to live!” And while they were crying out and were throwing off their garments, and were sending up dust to the Heavens, the

Captain commanded that he be brought to the fortress, and commanded that he should be questioned, with scourging, such that it might be known about what cause they were crying out against him.

And while they stretched him with straps, he, Paul, said to the Centurion who was standing next to him, "Is it permitted for you that you should scourge a Roman man who isn't condemned?"

And when the Centurion heard *this*, he came near to the Captain, and said to him, "What are you doing? For this man is a Roman!"

And the Captain came near to him, and said to him, "Tell me: Are you a Roman?"

And he said to him, "Yes."

And the Captain answered and said to him, "I acquired Roman-citizenship with much silver."

Paul said to him, "But I was even born with it!" And at once those who were seeking to beat him withdrew from him. And the Captain was fearful when he learned that he was a Roman, about him being bound.

And the next day, he desired to know truthfully what was the accusation that the Jews had brought against him. And he loosed him, and commanded that the Priests' Chief and all the assembly of their leaders should come. And he lead Paul, and going down, stood him among them.

Chapter 23

And while Paul looked at their gathering, he said, "Men, my brothers! I, in all good conscience, have been led before God up to today." And Ananias the Priest commanded those who were standing next to him that they should strike Paul on the mouth.

And Paul said to him, "God is prepared that He should strike you, Whitened Wall! And you sit judging me as to that which is in the Law, while you transgress regarding the Law, and you command that they strike me?"

And those who were standing there, they said to him, "You revile God's Priest?"

Paul said to them, "I didn't know, my brothers, that he is the Priest. For it is written: 'Do not curse your peoples' leader'"

And when Paul recognized that there were people which were from the Sadducees, and which were from the Pharisees, he cried out in the gathering: "My brothers, I am a Pharisee, a Pharisee's son!

And I am being judged because of the Hope of The Resurrection of the Dead!" And when he said this, the Pharisees and the Sadducees fought {broke out} one with the other, and the people were divided, for the Sadducees say that there's no Resurrection, and no Angel, and no spirit, but the Pharisees swear to all these *things*.

And there was a great clamor. And men stood up; Scribes from the Pharisees' sect; and they were quarreling with them, and they were saying: "We haven't found a thing that is evil with this man, but if a spirit or an Angel has spoken with him, what is there *wrong* in this?"

And when there was a great disturbance between them, the Captain was afraid that perhaps they should dismember Paul. And he sent for the Romans so that they should snatch him from their midst, and bring him to the fortress.

And when it was night, Our Lord appeared to Paul, and said to him, "**Be strengthened! Because as you have testified about Me in Jerusalem, thus, it is prepared that you also shall testify in Rome.**"

And when it was morning, men were gathering from the Jews. And they vowed ^(about) themselves that they would not eat and not drink until that they should kill Paul. But it happened to be *that* those who had been established in this oath, by a pact, were more than forty men.

And they drew near towards the Priests and towards the Elders, and they were saying, "We have vowed a curse upon us that: We shall not taste a thing until that we shall kill Paul. And now, you and the synagogue's leaders should seek from the Captain that he should bring him to us, as to your

inquiry, so that you should investigate the affair truly. And we are ready that we shall kill him before he shall arrive to you.”

And the son of Paul's sister had heard this plot, and entered to the fortress, and made it known to Paul. And Paul sent calling for one from Centurion, and said to him, “Take this boy to the Captain, for he has (for him) something that he should say to him.”

And the Centurion took the boy, and brought him to the Captain, and said, “Paul the prisoner called me, and sought from me that I should bring this boy to you, that there is (for you) something that he should say to you.”

And the Captain took hold of the boy by the hand, and led him to one side, and asked him, “What is there for you that you should say to me?”

And the boy said to him, “The Jews have planned that they will request from you that you bring down Paul to the gathering tomorrow, so as they are desiring that they should learn something more from him. You therefore, do not be persuaded, for, look!

More than forty men from them watch for him in ambush, and have vowed their souls that: They will not eat and not drink until that they should kill him! And look! They are ready, and they await for your promise.”

And the Captain dismissed the boy, after he commanded him: “No man is to know of these *things* which you have made known to me.”

And he called two Centurions, and said to them, “Go! Prepare two-hundred Romans so that they should go to Caesarea; and seventy horsemen, and two-hundred throwers with the right hand, so that they should go out from the third hour [9 pm] in the night. Then also prepare a beast, as they shall mount Paul upon it and deliver him to Felix the Governor.”

And he wrote a letter, giving it to them. That which in it was thus: “*Claudius Lysias, to the illustrious Felix the Governor: peace. The Jews had seized this man, so as that they should kill him. And I arose with the Romans and rescued him, after I learned that he is a Roman. And when I had sought to determine the cause on which account they were accusing him; I led him down to their gathering.*

And I found that upon investigation, that he was reproached because of their Law. And a crime which deserves chains, or death, wasn't against him. And when it was made known to me the deceit by ambush, which the Jews were preparing against him, I sent him at once to you, and commanded his accusers that they should come, and should speak with him before you. Be strong!”

Then, the Romans, as that they had been commanded, led Paul by night, and brought him to Antipatrus city.

And the next day, the horsemen dismissed the foot-soldiers, their comrades, so that they might return to the fortress. And they came to Caesarea and gave the letter to the Governor, and they stood Paul before him.

And after he had read the letter, he asked him from which province he was. And when he learned that he was from Cilicia, he said to him, “I shall hear you when your accusers come.” And he commanded that he should be guarded in Herod's Judgment hall.

Chapter 24

And after five days, Ananias Priests' Chief came down with the Elders, and with the Orator Tertulus, and informed the Governor about Paul. And when he was called, Tertulus was progressively accusing him, and said, “We have dwelt in the abundance of much tranquility because of you, and many good *things* have been for this people by your burdensome effort.

And all, in every place, we are receiving your beneficence, illustrious Felix. But not to weary you with many things we humbly request from you that you listen to us, in brevity, for we have found this man that he is a corrupter, and he stirs up disturbance for all the Jews who are in all the Earth, for he

is the head of the Nazarene's teaching.

And he desired to defile our temple, and after we took hold of him, we sought to judge him according to that which is in our Law. Then the Captain Lysias came, and with much force, took him from our hands, and sent him to you. And he commanded for his accusers that they should come to you. And after you are able to question him, you will learn from him about all these *things* which we are accusing him *of*.”

Then, they, the Jews, also complained aloud, while saying that these *things*, they were so.

And the Governor signaled to Paul that he should speak, and Paul responded, and said, “From many years I know that you have been the Judge of this people, and because of this, I gladly make a defense {send out a breath} for the sake of my own soul, while you are able to know that it hasn't been more than twelve days for me that I went up to Jerusalem to worship.

And they didn't find that I was speaking with a man in the temple, and also I did not even gather an assembly; not in their synagogues, and not in the City. And neither can they show, delivering with their hands before you, about a thing of which they now are accusing me *of*.

But, however, I do confess this: That in this teaching which they mention; in it I work for my fathers' God, while I am believing all *things* which are written in the Law, and in the Prophets, and where there is for me the Hope regarding God, that which they also are expecting (these), that there is to be a future Resurrection from the place of the dead; of the righteous and of the wicked.

Because of this, I also labor so that there should be a pure conscience for me before God, and before the sons of men; constantly. Then, after many years, I came to the sons of my own people, so that I should give alms and bring a sacrifice. And these found me in the temple, where I had been purified; not in an assembly; and also not with a disturbance.

But if there was a disturbance, that it is fitting that these Jewish men who came from Asia-Minor; that they should stand with me before you, and should accuse the thing which is of interest to them, or *that* these themselves should speak what error they had found in me when I stood before their assembly, unless, if it was this one statement that I cried out while I was standing in their midst, that, ‘I am being judged today before you regarding The Resurrection of the Dead!’”

Then, Felix, because he fully knew this Way, delayed them, while saying, “I will listen between you when the Captain has come.” And he commanded the Centurion that he should guard Paul quietly, and that no man from his friends should be restrained to minister to him.

And from after a few days, Felix, and Dursila his wife, who was a Jewess, called for Paul, and heard from him about the Faith of Christ.

And while he was speaking with them about Righteousness, and about Holiness, and about the Judgment which is prepared, Felix was full of fear, and said, “Go away now, and when there should be an opportunity for me, I will send after you,” for he was hoping that a bribe might be given from Paul to him. Because of this, he also constantly sent to bring him and to speak with him.

And when two years were fulfilled for him, another Governor who was called Porcius Festus came to his place [Office]. But Felix left Paul while he was bound so (as) that he should perform a favor to the Jews.

Chapter 25

And when Festus came to Caesarea, after three days he went up to Jerusalem.

And the Priests' Chiefs and the leaders of the Jews informed him about Paul, and they were seeking from him where they had asked him this favor: That he should dispatch him to come to Jerusalem, while they should perform an ambush on the road so that they might kill him.

And Festus returned word that, “Paul will be kept in Caesarea, and I hasten that I should depart. Therefore, those which are among you, who have come with their arms, should go down with us. And they shall accuse (regarding) every wrong-doing which is in the man.”

And after he was there, eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea and sat upon the Judgment-Seat the next day, and commanded that they should bring Paul. And after he came, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem surrounded him, and their Chiefs brought many and harsh charges against him, those which they were not able to show.

And afterward, Paul made a defense {sent forth a breath}: “I haven’t done a thing wrong; not in the Jews’ Law, and neither in the temple; and neither with Caesar!”

But Festus, because he desired to confer a favor with the Jews, said to Paul, “Do you desire to go up to Jerusalem and there be judged before me regarding these things?”

Paul answered and said, “I shall stand at the Judgment-Seat of Caesar. Here it’s proper for me to be judged. Not a thing have I sinned towards the Jews, as which you also know well. And if I’ve done wrong or something worthy (for) death, I will not be excused from death. Yet, if there isn’t something against me from these who are accusing me, to no man do I give myself for a gift. I call for an appeal to Caesar!”

Then Festus spoke with the sons of his council, and ordered, “You have called for Caesar’s appeal; to Caesar you shall go!”

And after some days had passed, Agrippa the King and Bernice came down to Caesarea so that they might ask for the peace of Festus.

And after they were with him some days, Festus related the judgment of Paul to the King, where he said, “A certain man, a prisoner, has been left from Felix’s hand. And when I was in Jerusalem, the Priests’ Chief and the Elders of the Jews made known to me about him, and they sought from me that I should perform judgment for them.

And I said to them that it wasn’t the custom of Romans that they should give a son of man as a gift to be killed, until there should be brought his master of judgment {adversary}, and he should accuse him to his face, and to give him an opportunity for a defense {sending-forth of breath} about that which he is accused.

And when I had come here, the next day, without delay, I sat upon The Judgment-Seat and commanded that the man should be brought to me. And his accusers stood up with him and were not able to show an evil reproach against him, as which I had expected.

But they had certain things against him; charges that were about their religion, and about Jesus, a man who had died, He of whom Paul was saying that He is alive.

And because I wasn’t certain about these inquiries, I said to Paul: ‘Do you wish that you should go to Jerusalem and there to be judged concerning these things?’ Yet, he requested that he should be kept for the Judgment of Caesar. And I commanded that he be kept until I should dispatch him to Caesar [Nero].”

And Agrippa said, “I desire that I should hear this man.”

And Festus said, “You will hear him tomorrow.”

And the next day, Agrippa and Bernice came with a large procession. And they entered the House of Judgment with the Captains and the leaders of the city. And Festus commanded, and Paul came.

And Festus said, “King Agrippa, and all men who are with us: In Jerusalem all the Jewish people complained to me about this man whom you see, and here, where they were crying out that it’s no longer fitting for this one that he should live.

But I ascertained that he had done nothing worthy to die for. And on account that he requested that he should be kept for Caesar’s judgment, I commanded that he should be sent.

And not knowing what I should write to Caesar about him, on this account I have desired to bring him before you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that, when this judgment is inquired of, I shall find out what I shall write, for it isn’t proper that, when we should send a bound man, that we shall not register his wrong-doing.

Chapter 26

And Agrippa said to Paul, “You are permitted to speak for the sake of your soul.”

Then Paul stretched out his hand and made a defense {sent forth a breath}, and said, “Concerning all of which I am accused *of* from the Jews, King Agrippa, about myself, I consider that I am blessed that I should make a defense {send forth a breath} this day before you.

I who especially know that you are persuaded in all the questions and laws of the Jews.

Because of this, I request from you that you would hear me patiently {with a long-suffering spirit}, for the Jews, they also know (if they desired that they should testify) my customs which are from my youth, which were mine from the beginning, among my people, and at Jerusalem, because they were satisfied with me from a long time, and they know that I had lived in the best of the Pharisees’ teaching.

And now, upon the Hope of the Promise which was made from God to our fathers, I stand, and am being judged, which, regarding this Hope, our Twelve Tribes are hoping that it will arrive with diligent prayers of the daytime and of the night.

And I am being reproached from the Jews’ hand regarding this very Hope, King Agrippa.

How do you judge? Is it not right that we should believe that God raises the dead?

For previously {from before} I set in my mind that I should deal out much adversity to oppose the name of Jesus the Nazarene, this which I also did in Jerusalem.

And I cast many holy ones in the prisoner’s house with the authority which I had received from the Priests’ Chiefs. and when those from them were killed, I was a partner for those who condemned them.

And I was abusive with them in every synagogue, while I compelled them that they should be reviling to the name of Jesus.

And I was filled with much wrath against them. I was going forth even to other cities to persecute them. And on this account, while I was going to Damascus with the authority and with the permission of the Priests’ Chiefs, in the middle of the day, in the road, I saw from the Heavens, O King, that there shone upon me, and upon all who were with me, a Light which was more abundant than of the Sun!

And we all fell to the ground. And I heard a voice, while saying to me in the Hebrew, [i.e Aramaic]: ‘Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute Me? It is hard for you to kick the goads!’

And I said: ‘Who are You my Lord?’

And Our Lord said to me: “I am Jesus, the Nazarene whom you are persecuting!’ And He said to me: ‘Rise up on your feet, for it is because of this *that* I have appeared to you; that I should establish you a minister and a witness/a martyr of the thing which you have seen of Me, and which *that* is destined that you will see of Me.

And I will deliver you from the Jewish people, and from other peoples to whom I am sending you to, so that their eyes might be opened in order that they might turn from darkness to The Light, and from the power of satana to God, and should receive forgiveness of sins, and a part with the holy ones in the Faith which is in Me.’

Because of this, King Agrippa, I didn't stand in contention to oppose the Heavenly vision, but rather, from the first, I proclaimed to those who were in Damascus, and to those who were in Jerusalem, all who were of the villages of Judea. And I even proclaimed to the Gentiles that they should repent and turn to God, and they should perform deeds which are worthy for penitence.

And the Jews took hold of me in the temple for because of {the presence of} these things, and they were desiring to kill me. But God aided me until this day. And look! I stand and I testify to the least and to the greatest, while I do not speak a thing outside of Moses and the Prophets; but rather those *things* which they said, which were destined to be: That Christ would suffer and would be The

Beginning of The Resurrection; that one from the place of the dead, and destined that He would proclaim Light to the people and to the Gentiles!”

And while Paul was thus making a defense {sending forth a breath}, Festus cried out in a loud voice, “You are insane, Paul! Many scrolls have made you insane!”

Paul said to him, “I am not insane, illustrious Festus, but rather, I speak the words of Truth and Integrity. And even King Agrippa especially knows about these things, and because of this, I speak boldly {with an open eye} before him, because, I suppose not one from these things have escaped his notice, for they were not done secretly. King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I know that you believe!”

King Agrippa said to him, “With a little {almost} persuade me to be a Christian!”

And Paul said, “I pray it be from God with a little and with much, not only you were, but also, for you all who are hearing me today, that you were just like me, except for these bonds!”

And the King arose, and the Governor, and Bernice, and those who were seated with them. And after they departed from there, they were speaking one with the other, and saying, “This man hasn't done something worthy for death, or to be bound.”

And Agrippa said to Festus, “This man would have been able to be loosed if he hadn't called for an appeal to Caesar.”

Chapter 27

And Festus commanded (about him) that he should be sent to Caesar; to Italy. And he delivered Paul and another prisoner with him to a certain man, a Centurion from the Sebaste Troop whose name was Julius.

And when it was that we were to journey, we went down to a ship which was from Adramyttium city and going to the region of Asia minor. And Aristarchus entered the ship with us, a Macedonian who was from Thessalonica city.

And we came to Sidon the next day. And the Centurion treated Paul with mercy and permitted that he could go to his friends and be refreshed. And we journeyed from there. And because the winds were contrary, we went around towards Cyprus.

And we crossed the Sea of Cilicia, and of Pamphylia. And we came to Myra, a city of Lycia.

And the Centurion found there a ship from Alexandria which was going to Italy, and set us in it. And because she journeyed with difficulty for many days, we had scarcely arrived opposite to Cnidus island. And because the wind wouldn't allow us that we should go straight, we circled around toward Crete, near Salmone city.

And when we had scarcely journeyed around it, we came to the place which is called the Beautiful Havens, and was near (to) the city which is named Lasea. And we were there a long time {much time}, until there also passed The Day of The Fast [The Day of Atonement] of the Jews.

And it was dangerous for a man that they journey by Sea, and Paul advised them, and said, “Men, I see that we voyage in difficulty and in great loss; not only of the cargo of our ship, but also of our own souls.”

But the Centurion listened more to the Helmsman and to the master of the ship than the words of Paul. And because that harbor wasn't suitable to weather the winter in, many from us desired that we should journey from there, and that, if we were able, that we should arrive and winter in a certain harbor which was there in Crete, and was called Phenice, and looked towards the south.

And when the wind of the south had blown, and we were hoping that we might arrive as we desired; we journeyed around Crete.

And from shortly after, there came forth against us the wind of the storm which was called Typhoon Euroclydon. And the ship was seized and wasn't able to stand to oppose the wind, and to which we gave her.

And when we passed a certain island, which is called Cauda, we were barely able to hold on to the skiff. And after we lifted it up, we tightened and restored the ship. And because we were fearing that perhaps we would fall in the descent of the Sea, we lowered the foresail, and so journeyed *on*.

And the next day, while the hard storm rose against us, we were throwing goods into the Sea. And the third day, we threw out the ships own vessels with our hands.

And when the weather held for many days, and no Sun was seen, and no Moon, and no Stars, all hope that we might live had come to an end for us.

And then, when no man could endure any longer {the word has three meanings, so the text can also read: "no man had been fed a thing" or "the men were tireless"}, Paul rose in their midst, and said, "If you had been reconciled to me, men, we would not have journeyed from Crete, and we would have been spared from loss and from this trouble.

And now I counsel that you should be without distress, for not one soul (from you) will perish, but only the ship, for there appeared to me in this night an Angel of God; that One whose I am [belong to] and for whom I work. And He said to me, 'Do not fear, Paul! It is destined for you to stand before Caesar. And look! God has given to you a gift: All who are journeying with you!'

Because of this, be encouraged, men, for I believe in God, that (thus) it will be according to what He spoke with me. Nevertheless, we are to be cast to a certain island."

And from after fourteen days of our wandering and (our) being beaten in the Adriatic Sea—in the middle of the night—the Sailors thought that we were drawing near to land. And they threw out the sounding line, and they found it was twenty fathoms. And they journeyed a little further, and they found it was fifteen fathoms.

And while we were fearing that perhaps we would find ourselves in a place among the rocks, they threw out four anchors from the end of the ship, and we were praying that it would be day. Yet, the Sailors sought to escape from the ship. And they lowered the skiff from her to the Sea, with the pretext that they should go in it and secure the ship on land.

And when Paul saw it, he said to the Centurion and to the soldiers, "You are not able to live if these do not remain in the ship!" Then the soldiers cut the skiff's ropes from the ship, and left her to wander.

Then he, Paul, was urging them all until morning, that they should take food, while saying to them, "Look! Today is fourteen days that you, from fear, haven't tasted a thing. Because of this, I request from you that you should take food for the maintenance of your lives, for a hair won't be lost from the head of each one from you!"

And after he had said these things, he took bread, and gave praise to God before them all, and broke it. And they joined to eat, and they received the food, and they were all encouraged. Yet, there were two hundred and seventy and six souls in the ship. And after they were satisfied with the food, they lightened the ship, and took up wheat, and threw it in the Sea.

And when it was day, the Sailors didn't know which land it was, but they saw upon its coast-land a certain bay of the Sea, where they were considering, if able, to propel the ship. And they cut the anchors from the ship and left them in the Sea. And they loosened the bands of the paddles, and they hoisted a small topsail to the wind, which was blowing. And we were journeying towards the face of the land.

And the ship made contact on a high place between two depths of the Sea, and held fast to it. And the forward part stood upon it and couldn't be moved. Yet, the rear part was loose from the force of the waves. And the soldiers were desiring that they should kill the prisoners so that they shouldn't cast forth swimming, and should escape from them.

And the Centurion restrained them from this, because his desire was that Paul should live; and to those who were able to cast out to swim, he commanded them to be the first to swim and cross over to the land. And for the rest; they crossed over on boards and on other wood of the ship. And thus, all of them were delivered to the land.

Chapter 28

And afterward, we learned that the island is called Melita. And the Barbarians who were dwelling in it showed much mercy towards us. And they kindled a fire and called to us all so that we might be warmed because of the extensive rain and cold which was there.

And Paul took up a large amount of sticks, and put them on the fire. And a viper came out from them because of the heat of the fire, and bit him in his hand. And when the Barbarians saw that it hung on his hand, they said, "Perhaps this man is a murderer, who, after *being* rescued from the Sea, justice wouldn't allow that he should live."

Yet, he, Paul, waved his hand and threw the viper into the fire, and nothing that is harmful happened.

But the Barbarians were expecting that he would swell up on the hour's son and fall while dead upon the ground. And after they *had* watched a long time, and saw that nothing which is foul happen to him, they changed their words and said that he was a god!

But there were villages in that region for a certain man whose name was Publius, he who was the Chief of the island. And he gladly received us into his house *for* three days.

But the father of Publius was sick with a fever and with intestinal pain. And Paul was brought to him, and he prayed and put his hand on him, and healed him. And after this happened, the rest also; those who were sick among them on the island, came to him and were healed.

And they honored us with great honors, and when we went forth from there, they provided us with provisions.

Then, after three months, we went forth. And we journeyed in an Alexandrian ship which had wintered at the island. And there was the sign of the twins (=Castor and Pollux) upon her.

And we came to Syracuse city, and we remained there *for* three days. And from there we circled around, and arrived at Rhegium city. And after one day, the wind of the south blew for us. And at two days, we came to Puteoli, a city of Italy.

And we found brothers there, and they requested from us, and we were with them seven days.

And then we went to Rome. And when the brothers who were there had heard, they came out to meet us as far as the market which is called Appius Forum [*The Market of Appius*], and up to The Three Taverns {*Lathlath Khanwan*}.

And when Paul saw them, he gave praise to God, and was strengthened.

And we entered Rome. And the Centurion permitted Paul to lodge where he desired, with the soldier; that one who was a guard for him.

And after three days, Paul sent, calling for the Chiefs of the Jews. And when they had gathered, he said to them, "Men, my brothers, while in nothing did I stand to oppose the people, and my fathers' Law; in chains I was delivered up from Jerusalem, in the control of the Romans.

And they, when they interrogated me, they desired that I should be loosed, because they didn't find something reproachful against me, which was worthy for death.

And when the Jews rose to oppose me, I was compelled that I should cry out the appeal of Caesar; not as if there was for me that I should accuse the sons of my people with something.

Because of this, I sought from you that you should come, and you should see, and I should relate these things to you, for I am bound with this chain on account of Israel's Hope."

They said to him, "We received no letters from Judea about you, and no man from the brothers who came to us from Jerusalem have said a thing of evil against you. But we are desiring that we hear from you the thing which you think, because, this teaching; we know that, concerning it, no man receives it."

And they established a day for him. And they gathered, and there came many to him where he was lodging. And he revealed to them about The Kingdom of God, while testifying and convincing them

about Jesus, from Moses' Law, and from the Prophets, from the morning and until the evening. And men from them assented to his words, and others were not convinced. And they turned away from him, while not agreeing with each other.

And Paul said to them this word: “The Holy Spirit spoke well through the mouth of Isaiah the Prophet, against your fathers, where he says: *‘Go to this people and say to them, ‘Hearing, you will hear, and not understand, and seeing, and will not perceive, for the heart of this people is hardened, and they are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed so that they will not see with their eyes, and to hear with their ears, and to understand with their hearts, and should return to Me, and I should forgive them.’*”

Therefore, this shall be known to you that to the Gentiles this redemption of God is sent (to them), and they are also responding to it!”

And Paul rented a house for himself, from his own means, and was two years in it, and received there all those who were coming to him.¹ And he proclaimed about The Kingdom of God, and taught without hindrance boldly {with an open eye} about Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The end of Acts. Translated solely from the East Aramaic manuscripts. The English translation has been carefully modified for easy-reading by Ralf Chevalie Alvryd.

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Chapter notes:

Chapter 7

1. 7:14 Septuagint reading here. Stephen was a “Hellenistic” Jewish Christian, speaking to Hellenistic Jewish people who would have used the Greek translation of the Scriptures which alone has this number recorded in it. The Hebrew and the Aramaic translation of it has 70 souls.
2. 7:42 Quotation of Amos 5:25: “*Did you offer to me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness for forty years, O house of Israel?*” -Lamsa’s Peshitta Old Testament translation.
3. 7:43 A quotation of Amos 5:26: “*But you carried the tabernacle of Malcom and Chiun your idol, the star which you made a god to yourselves. Therefore I will cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, says YHWH whose name is The God of Hosts.*” - Lamsa’s Peshitta Old Testament translation.

Chapter 8

1. 8:27 “Trustee” This word in Aramaic means one who is trusted or who is faithful, one who is entrusted with something in an official capacity. It can refer to a eunuch, but, since this man was going to Jerusalem to worship God, it is unlikely that he was a castrated man, since such a one was forbidden by the Law to perform worship acts at the Temple in Jerusalem. It seems more likely that he is simply called here, a “trustee” of the Queen of Cush...and an official minister of her government.
2. 8:37 vs 37, as it is found in the Greek and Latin text, as well as later being brought into the Western Syriac (The Peshitto) version of The Aramaic NT, from the Greek text (see the translation below). It has never been part of The Eastern Aramaic NT (The Peshitta), which has the reading above and so the chapter has only ³⁹ verses, rather than ⁴⁰. From the Western Peshitto version it reads thus: “*And Philip said, “if you believe with all your heart it is permitted.” And he responded, “I, I believe that Eshu’ M’shikha is the Son of Alaha.”*”

Chapter 15

1. 15:34 – The Eastern Aramaic text does not have the words “*But, it was the pleasure of Silas to remain there still.*”, as is found in a few Greek copies, and copied from them into the Western Syriac version of the Aramaic NT text called “the Peshitto”.

Chapter 28

1. 28:29 Verse 29, as found in the Byzantine Greek text, the Latin Vulgate text, and the Western Aramaic Peshitto version, is not found in any of the Eastern Aramaic Manuscripts, and so, instead, verse 30 and verse 31 in Peshitta manuscripts are verse 29 and 30, which you also find in this translation of the Eastern Aramaic NT text.