

BARNABAS AND SAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY BEGUN

Acts 13:4 - 41

Having been definitely called of the Lord to become missionaries, Barnabas and Saul left their work in the church at Antioch to begin their first missionary journey. Discover now where they went, and what happened as they traveled:

A. The Journey Begun: Read Acts 13:4, 5

1. From Antioch, to what seaport town did Barnabas and Saul travel?
Acts 13:4b

2. Trace this journey on a map. To what island did they sail next? Acts 13:4c

3. At what city on this island did they first preach? Acts 13:5a, b

4. At what place in this city did they preach? Acts 13:5b

5. Who accompanied them on this journey as their *minister* (servant, attendant, or helper)?
Acts 13:5c

B. The Ministry at Paphos: Read Acts 13:6-12

1. What important person in Paphos desired to hear the Word of God?
Acts 13:7

2. What did the Jew, Bar-jesus or Elymas, who was a false prophet and *sorcerer* (witch-doctor), try to do? Acts 13:8b

3. What did Saul, through the Lord's power, cause to happen to him?
Acts 13:11

4. What happened as a result of this? Acts 13:12

C. The Journey Continued: Read Acts 13:13, 14

1. What new name had been given to Saul by this time? Acts 13:9a

2. Notice another change which had taken place by this time: Up until now, how had the missionary team always been described? (See Acts 11:30b, 12:25a, 13:2b)

3. But as they left Paphos, how was it described? Acts 13:13a (See 13:43b, 46a) _____

4. What do you think this shows? (*THINK!*)

5. What was their next stop after Paphos? Acts 13:13b

6. What happened there? Acts 13:13c

7. What was the next stop after this? Acts 13:14a, b

D. The Sermon in Antioch of Pisidia: Read Acts 13:14-41

1. What did the missionaries do when they first arrived in Antioch? Acts 13:14b

2. As a result of this action, what invitation came to them? Acts 13:15b

3. Who responded to this invitation? Acts 13:16a

4. Read quickly the first part of his sermon, Acts 13:16-22. From what source was it taken? (*THINK!*)

5. Around whom was this sermon centered? Acts 13:23

6. What were three of the main things Paul said about Him? Acts 13:26-30

7. What did Paul say had been made possible by these things? Acts 13:38

8. What must people do in order to receive this? Acts 13:39a

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. This message is essentially the same as that preached by Paul everywhere he went. Is it clear and understandable?

2. Would it meet the needs of people who lived during his time?

3. What is the message most needed by the world of our day? (See John 3:16) Am I doing my part to proclaim this message?

THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY CONCLUDED

Acts 13:42 – 14:26

In the previous lesson, we noticed that the whole purpose of Paul's missionary journeys was to take the message of salvation through faith in Jesus to those who had never heard. Study now the different reactions to this message in various cities:

A. The Reaction at Antioch in Pisidia: Read Acts 13:42-52

1. What three groups seemed particularly interested in what Paul had said at Antioch?
Acts 13:42, 43a

2. How did the Jews feel when they saw the tremendous interest of these groups? Acts 13:45a

3. When they began contradicting and *blaspheming* (cursing or swearing), to whom did Paul and Barnabas say they would now preach? Acts 13:46b

4. How did the Gentiles feel about this? Acts 13:48a

5. What happened as a result of this? Acts 13:48b, 49

6. What did the Jews do after this? Acts 13:50

7. What did the disciples do? Acts 13:51

8. How did they feel? Acts 13:52

B. The Reaction at Iconium: Read Acts 14:1-6

1. Locate Iconium on a map and continue tracing the journey. Where did they preach in Iconium? Acts 14:1a

2. What happened as a result of their ministry there? Acts 14:1b

3. Who then tried to make trouble? Acts 14:2

4. What did the apostles do in spite of this? Acts 14:3

5. What did their enemies then plan to do? Acts 14:5b

6. Therefore, what did the disciples do? Acts 14:6a

C. The Reaction at Lystra: Read Acts 14:7-21a

1. What did the apostles do at Lystra? Acts 14:7

2. Who was among those who heard their message? Acts 14:8, 9a

3. What did Paul notice about him as he spoke? Acts 14:9b

4. Therefore, what did Paul do for him? Acts 14:10

5. What did the people of Lystra think of Paul and Barnabas after this? Acts 14:11b, 12

6. What did they try to do to them? Acts 14:13b, 18b

7. Who then tried to make trouble? Acts 14:19a

8. What did they do to Paul? Acts 14:19b

9. What did the apostles do after this? Acts 14:20b, 21a

D. The Return Trip: Read Acts 14:21b-26

1. Through what three cities did the apostles return on their homeward trip? Acts 14:21b

2. What did they teach the believers in each of these places? Acts 14:22b

3. What else did they do in each place before returning to Antioch?
Acts 14:22a, 23a

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What reaction may I expect as I give forth God's message today? (See John 16:33)

2. Will I have the courage to keep on proclaiming God's message, regardless of how I am treated? (See Acts 1:8a; 2 Timothy 1:7)

PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY FURLOUGH

Acts 14:27 - 15:31

Following their first missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas began their first missionary furlough. Study the following to discover where they went, what they did there, and what great events took place during their first furlough:

A. Events in Antioch: Read Acts 14:27-15:2

1. Where did the missionaries spend their furlough? Acts 14:26a

2. Why would they especially want to go there? Acts 14:26b

3. What did they do when they arrived? Acts 14:27

4. How long did they stay? Acts 14:28

5. From what place did other teachers come to Antioch while Paul and Barnabas were there? Acts 15:1a

6. What did these men teach? Acts 15:1b, 5b

7. What did Paul and Barnabas do when they heard this teaching? Acts 15:2a

8. By whom did the church of Antioch decide that this great question should be settled? Acts 15:2c

9. Who were to be their representatives in settling this question? Acts 15:2b

10. How long had it been since Paul was last in Jerusalem? (See Galatians 2:1)

B. The Visit to Jerusalem: Read Acts 15:3-5

1. As they travelled toward Jerusalem, about what did they tell the people in every place? Acts 15:3

2. When they arrived in Jerusalem, to whom did they give their report? Acts 15:4

3. Who objected to the way they had taught the Gentiles? Why? Acts 15:5

C. The Church Council at Jerusalem: Read Acts 15:6-29

6 Bible Discoveries: New Testament Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
The Life of the Early Church: Paul through John's Revelation

1. Notice that a special council meeting was called to discuss this problem. After much disputing, who made a speech? Acts 15:7a

2. What did he say had happened when he preached the gospel to the Gentiles (Cornelius and his household, Acts 10) some time ago? Acts 15:8

3. What had been the only thing necessary for their salvation? Acts 15:9

4. Who next testified of similar conversions among the Gentiles? Acts 15:12

5. Who then remembered that God had promised in the Old Testament that the Gentiles would be saved? Acts 15:13-17

6. Therefore, what solution to this problem did he suggest? Acts 15:19

7. However, from what four things did he think the Gentiles should keep themselves? Acts 15:20

8. What was one reason they should do this? Acts 15:21

9. Who was sent to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas and the others, to tell the church of this decision? Acts 15:22b, 27a, 32a

10. What did the people do when they heard the church leaders' decision? Acts 15:31

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What do I consider necessary for a person's salvation today? (See Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5)

2. How does God feel about any other things I might try to do in order to be saved? (See Isaiah 64:6)

PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY BEGUN

Acts 15:32 - 16:15

After Judas and Silas had reported the decision of the Jerusalem conference to the church at Antioch, they both preached in Antioch for a time. Then Judas returned to Jerusalem, but Silas remained in Antioch. Now discover what happens after that:

A. Paul's Plans for the Journey: Read Acts 15:36-39

1. After Paul and Barnabas had been in Antioch for some time, what did Paul suggest that they should do? Acts 15:36a

2. What was to be the purpose of this journey? Acts 15:36b

3. Whom did Barnabas want to take with them on this journey? Acts 15:37

4. Why did Paul not think this would be wise? Acts 15:38

5. What happened because of this difference of opinion? Acts 15:39a

6. Where did Barnabas go after this? Acts 15:39b

B. Paul's Companions on the Journey: Read Acts 15:40-16:5

1. Whom did Paul then choose for his companion? Acts 15:40

2. In what direction did they go? Acts 15:41

3. Trace this journey on a map. Whom did they discover when they reached Derbe and Lystra? Acts 16:1, 2

4. What did Paul decide about him? Acts 16:3a

5. Who else joined the missionary party later at Troas? (See Acts 16:10, and *THINK!* When the author of the book uses "we," what does that indicate?)

C. Paul's Guidance for the Journey: Read Acts 16:6-12

1. What happened after they had preached in the provinces of Phrygia and Galatia? Acts 16:6

8 Bible Discoveries: New Testament Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
The Life of the Early Church: Paul through John's Revelation

2. What happened again after they had come to the *province* (district similar to a state) of Mysia? Acts 16:7

3. Therefore, to what place did they go? Acts 16:8

4. What happened after they arrived there? Acts 16:9

5. What did the whole group conclude as a result of this vision? Act 16:10c

6. Therefore, what did they immediately *endeavor* (try) to do? Acts 16:10b

7. Through what two places did they pass on the way? Acts 16:11

8. In what city of Macedonia did they first stay? Acts 16:12

D. The Results of Paul's Obedience to This Guidance: Read Acts 16:13-15

1. What was one immediate result of Paul's obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit for this journey? Acts 16:13-15

2. Notice further immediate results of Paul's obedience to this leading as you study the rest of the chapter in the succeeding lesson.

3. Of what continent are Philippi and Macedonia a part? (Look on a world map)

4. Therefore, what nations received the Gospel as a far-reaching result of Paul's obedience to the Holy Spirit's guidance for this journey? (*THINK!*)

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Humanly speaking, what would *I* know of the Lord today if Paul had not obeyed the Spirit's leading?

2. Do I seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in every tiny part of my life? Am I careful to follow His leading once it is given?

PAUL'S MINISTRY IN PHILIPPI

Acts 16:16 - 40

After winning Lydia and her household to the Lord Jesus, Paul and his companions continue in Philippi for some time, making Lydia's house their headquarters. See now what happened as they continued their witness there:

A. Paul's Miracle in Philippi: Read Acts 16:16-18

1. Who followed Paul and his companions as they went to the place of prayer? Acts 16:16a

2. Who received money from the fortune-telling which the evil spirit in her enabled her to do? Acts 16:16b

3. What did she cry out as she followed Paul and his companions? Acts 16:17

4. How long did she continue this? Acts 16:18a

5. How did Paul feel about this? Acts 16:18b

6. Therefore, what did he do? Acts 16:18c

B. The People's Reaction to this Miracle: Read Acts 16:19-24

1. Who became enraged at what had happened to the girl? Why? Acts 16:19

2. Therefore, what did they do with Paul and Silas? Acts 16:19b

3. What did they accuse Paul and Silas of doing?
 - a. Acts 16:20b _____
 - b. Acts 16:21 _____
4. What did the other people of the city then do? Acts 16:22a

5. What did the *magistrates* (public civil officers) of the city do to them? Acts 16:22b

6. Where were Paul and Silas then placed? Acts 16:23, 24

C. The Missionaries' Reaction to this Treatment: Read Acts 16:25

1. What did Paul and Silas do after being treated in this manner? Acts 16:25a

2. Who heard this testimony for their God? Acts 16:25b
-

D. The Results of the Missionaries' Attitude: Read Acts 16:26-40

1. What came suddenly as Paul and Silas prayed and sang? Acts 16:26a
-
2. What three things happened as a result of this? Acts 16:26b
-
3. What did the keeper of the prison do when he saw what had happened? Acts 16:27
-
4. What did Paul say when he saw this about to happen? Acts 16:28
-
5. What did the jailor do after this? Acts 16:29
-
6. What did he ask? Acts 16:30
-
7. What was their reply? Acts 16:31
-
8. What happened as a result of this experience? Acts 16:33b, 34b
-
9. How did the jailor treat Paul and Silas after this? Acts 16:33a, 34a
-

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Did it pay Paul and Silas to rejoice when they were mistreated for Jesus' sake? Were they rewarded?
-
2. What should be my attitude when I must suffer for my Lord?
(See Matthew 5:10-12)
-

PAUL'S VISIT TO THESSALONICA AND BEREIA

Acts 17:1 - 15

After Paul and Silas were released from jail, the officials of Philippi begged them to leave the city. This they did, taking Timothy with them (See Acts 17:14), but evidently leaving Luke behind (compare "we" in Acts 16:16 with "they" in Acts 16:40b and 17:1). Now read to see what they did next:

A. Paul's Visit to Thessalonica: Read Acts 17:1-4

1. From Acts 17:1, trace the route of Paul's journey toward Thessalonica on a map. Where did he go first in this city? Acts 17:1, 2a

2. On what did Paul base his teachings in this city, as well as everywhere else he went? Acts 17:2c

3. What two things did he seek to prove to the Jews there? Acts 17:3

a. _____

b. _____

4. What happened as a result of his ministry there? Acts 17:4

5. How long was he able to continue this ministry? Acts 17:2b

B. Paul's Enemies in Thessalonica: Read Acts 17:5-10a

1. After this time, who began to make trouble? Acts 17:5a

2. Why did they do this? Acts 17:5b

3. Whom did they get to help them? Acts 17:5c

4. What did they do? Acts 17:5d

5. When they were unable to find Paul and Silas, whom did they persecute? Acts 17:6a

6. What did they accuse Paul and Silas of having done? Acts 17:6b

7. Against whose laws did they say Paul and Silas were teaching? Acts 17:7

8. What did the believers do when they heard about this uproar? Acts 17:10a

C. Paul's Ministry in Berea: Read Acts 17:10-12

1. Where did Paul and Silas go first in Berea? Acts 17:10

2. How did the Jews there compare with those in Thessalonica?: Acts 17:11a

3. What did they do as Paul preached? Acts 17:11b
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
4. What happened as a result of Paul's ministry there? Acts 17:12

D. Paul's Enemies in Berea: Read Acts 17:13, 14

1. Who started the trouble in Berea? Acts 17:13

2. What did the believers in Berea do as soon as they heard of this trouble? Acts 17:14a

3. Who remained with them for a short time? Acts 17:14b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. In what way were the unbelieving Jews of Thessalonica like "the dog in the manger?"
(See Matthew 23:13 for an idea)

2. What is God's message for me (1) if I do not receive the word of God for myself? and
(2) if I keep others who would like to hear it from doing so?
(See Matthew 23:13a)

PAUL'S VISIT TO ATHENS

Acts 17:15 - 34

We have seen how the unbelieving Jews of Thessalonica refused to allow Paul to stay in their own city, and not content with that, ran him out of the neighboring city of Berea as well. Read now to see where Paul went next, and what he did there:

A. Paul's Arrival in Athens: Read Acts 17:15, 16

1. Trace on a map Paul's journey from Berea to Athens. While he was waiting for Silas and Timothy to join him, what did he notice about the city of Athens? Acts 17:16b

2. How did this make him feel? Acts 17:16b

B. Paul's Work in Athens: Read Acts 17:17-21

1. Because of the tremendous need which Paul saw, what did he begin to do? Acts 17:18b

2. What two places did he do this? Acts 17:17

3. How often and to what four groups did he do it? Acts 17:17b, 18

4. Why did the *Epicureans* (who thought that pleasure was the main thing in life) and *Stoics* (who felt they should be indifferent to pleasure or to pain) want to hear more from Paul in the *Areopagus* (Mars Hill Auditorium)? Acts 17:19-21

C. Paul's Sermon in Athens: Read Acts 17:22-31

1. Of whom did Paul speak to the people of Athens? Acts 17:23

2. Notice how Paul described Him to them in: Acts 17:24-28. Did he use the Old Testament Scriptures in preaching to them, as he had when preaching to the Jews? Why?

3. What great thing did Paul say God had done? Acts 17:24a

4. Therefore, over what is He Lord or ruler? Acts 17:24b

5. Does He live in temples, as the Athenians thought? Acts 17:24c

6. Does He need anything men can do for Him with their hands? Acts 17:25a

14 Bible Discoveries: New Testament Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
The Life of the Early Church: Paul through John's Revelation

7. Rather, what does He do for men? Acts 17:25b, 26

8. What two things does He want men to do? Acts 17:27a, b

9. Since God is this kind of God, should men think that He is like any idol that could be made of gold or silver or stone? Acts 17:29

10. Although in the past God had overlooked their ignorance of Him as He really is, what did He now command everyone to do? Acts 17:30

11. Why is it so necessary that they do this? Acts 17:31a

12. What proof has God given that He will actually judge the whole world? Acts 17:31b

D. The Results of Paul's Sermon: Acts 17:32-34

1. When Paul spoke of the resurrection of the dead, what did his hearers do?

a. Acts 17:32a _____

b. Acts 17:32b _____

c. Acts 17:34 _____

2. How did this compare with the reception of Paul's sermons in other places?

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. How do you think God felt, as He saw the people of Athens still clinging to their many idols and false ideas about God, and disregarding His command?

2. Are there any idols or false ideas of God in my life? Or have I truly repented, and sought the true God until I found Him? (See Jeremiah 29:13)

PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE THESSALONIANS

1 and 2 Thessalonians

Some events of Paul's life are not recorded for us in the book of Acts, but may be discovered from a study of his *epistles*, or letters. Study the following letters to discover events which took place during his stay in Athens, and shortly thereafter:

A. Paul's Messenger to Thessalonica: Read 1 Thessalonians 2:14-3:5

1. How were the Christians in Thessalonica treated after Paul was sent away from them to escape the fury of the Jews? 1 Thessalonians 2:14b, 1:6b

2. Had Paul really wanted to leave them? 1 Thessalonians 2:17a

3. After this, what did he try at least twice to do? 1 Thessalonians 2:17b, 18a

4. Why did he not do this? 1 Thessalonians 2:18b

5. By the time he reached Athens, how great had his concern for the Thessalonians become? 1 Thessalonians 3:1, 5

6. Therefore, as soon as Timothy arrived from Berea, what did he do? 1 Thessalonians 3:2a

7. What two things was Timothy to do there? 1 Thessalonians 3:2b-3

B. Paul's Message from the Thessalonians: Read 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

1. When Timothy returned to Paul (who by this time was in Corinth: Acts 18:1, 5) what word did he bring concerning the Thessalonians? 1 Thessalonians 3:6b-d

2. How did this message cause Paul to feel? 1 Thessalonians 3:7-9

3. For what did he especially pray after this? 1 Thessalonians 3:10a, 11

4. How often and in what manner did he pray for this? 1 Thessalonians 3:10a

5. For what purpose did he especially desire this? 1 Thessalonians 3:10b

C. Paul's Messages to the Thessalonians: Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1, 2, 4:13-18

16 Bible Discoveries:New Testament Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
The Life of the Early Church: Paul through John's Revelation

1. Although Paul could not immediately visit the Thessalonians, what *could* and *did* he do?
(See 1 Thessalonians 1:1 and *THINK!*)

2. What did he tell the Thessalonians that he was doing in their behalf?
1 Thessalonians 1:2

3. After reminding them of the things he had taught them while he was there (chapters 1, 2), on what two subjects did he give them further teaching?
1 Thessalonians 4:3b, 9a

4. What had evidently happened to some of the Thessalonian Christians since Paul had left? 1 Thessalonians 4:13a, b

5. How did this cause the others to feel? 1 Thessalonians 4:13c

6. What wonderful thing did Paul tell them about those who had died?
1 Thessalonians 4:14-17

7. To what event did Paul repeatedly refer in his letter? 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 2:19, 3:13, 4:16a, 5:2-4, 23b

8. When the Thessalonians received Paul's letter, what did they believe about this event? 2 Thessalonians 2:2f

9. How did this cause them to feel? 2 Thessalonians 2:2a, b

10. What two things did Paul say must take place before this event?
2 Thessalonians 2:3
a. _____
b. _____
11. What did he ask them to do for him? 2 Thessalonians 3:1, 2
(In the following lesson, look for reasons for this request.)

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Do you think Paul's letters were helpful to the Thessalonian Christians?

2. Are there some for whom I am really concerned today, to whom I cannot minister in person? How might I be able to reach them?

PAUL'S VISIT TO CORINTH

Acts 18:1 - 22

Since Paul's message was received less heartily in Athens than in probably any other place, he did not stay there long. Shortly after Silas and Timothy arrived from Berea, he evidently sent both (Acts 18:5) back to Thessalonica (1 Thessalonians 3:1, 2) and traveled on to the nearby city of Corinth. Notice now what he did there:

A. Paul's Arrival at Corinth: Read Acts 18:1-3

1. With whom did Paul stay while he was in Corinth? Acts 18:2

2. What else did he do with them? Acts 18:3

B. Paul's Ministry in Corinth: Read Acts 18:4-11

1. Where did Paul begin his ministry in Corinth? Acts 18:4

2. What did he seek to prove to the Jews there? Acts 18:5

3. What did the Jews begin to do after a time? Acts 18:6a

4. Therefore, what did Paul decide to do from then on? Acts 18:6b

5. Where did Paul preach from that time on? Acts 18:7

6. What were some of the results of Paul's ministry in Corinth?

a. Acts 18:8a _____

b. Acts 18:8b _____

7. What very encouraging message did God give to Paul one night in a vision? Acts 18:9b, 10

8. How long was he able to continue his ministry peacefully in this place? Acts 18:11

C. Trouble in Corinth: Read Acts 18:12-17

1. What did the Jews do when Gallio was the leader of Achaia (state-like division of Greece)? Acts 18:12

2. Of what did they accuse Paul? Acts 18:13

3. Why did Gallio refuse to be a judge in this case? Acts 18:15

4. After this, what did the Greeks do, right in front of the judgment seat?

18 Bible Discoveries: New Testament Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
The Life of the Early Church: Paul through John's Revelation
Acts 18:17a

5. What was Gallio's reaction to this? Acts 18:17b

D. Paul's Departure from Corinth: Read Acts 18:18-22

1. How long did Paul stay in Corinth after this? Acts 18:18a

2. When he left, who did he take with him? Acts 18:18b

3. How far did they travel with him? Acts 18:19a

4. What did Paul do when he stopped there? Acts 18:19b

5. What did they ask him to do? Acts 18:20a

6. Why could he not do this? Acts 18:20b, 21a

7. But what did he promise them before he left? Acts 20:21b

8. Complete this journey on a map. Where did Paul go after landing in Caesarea and visiting the church in Jerusalem? Acts 18:22

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. In what different ways did God help Paul during his stay in Corinth? What people did He use to meet Paul's various needs?

2. What can *I* do to increase the effectiveness of missionaries' work today?

PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY BEGUN

Acts 18:23 - 19:41

After attending the feast in Jerusalem and visiting his home church in Antioch, Paul was ready to return to Ephesus as he had promised. Notice what he did on the way, and what happened after he arrived there:

A. The Journey Begun: Read Acts 18:23

1. Through what two provinces did Paul go as he began his third journey?

Acts 18:23a

2. Trace this journey on a map. What did he do in every city he visited?

Acts 18:23b

B. The Ministry of Apollos: Read Acts 18:24-28

1. Who arrived in Ephesus before Paul did? Acts 19:24

2. Notice the four phrases which describe this man in Acts 18:24, 25. What was the basis for his teaching? Acts 18:25b

3. What did Aquila and Priscilla do after they heard him? Acts 18:26

4. What was he able to do when he traveled to Achaia where the city of Corinth was located? Acts 18:27b

5. What was the main subject of Apollos' sermons? Acts 18:28
-

C. Paul's Arrival in Ephesus: Read Acts 19:1-7

1. What did Paul discover about some disciples he met when he first arrived in Ephesus?

Acts 19:2b

2. What was the basis of their belief and baptism? Acts 19:3

3. After Paul had taught them of Jesus, what two things were done for these disciples?

Acts 19:5, 6

D. Paul's Main Ministry in Ephesus: Read Acts 19:8-22

1. What did Paul do for the first three months of his stay in Ephesus? Acts 19:8
-

20 Bible Discoveries: New Testament Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
The Life of the Early Church: Paul through John's Revelation

2. When some of the Jews opposed him, where did he go? Acts 19:9b

3. How long did he continue this? Acts 19:10a

4. What was the result of his ministry there? Acts 19:10b

5. What else did Paul do beside preach? Acts 19:11, 12

6. What happened when some of the Jews tried to copy him? Acts 19:13-16

7. What effect did this have on those who heard of it? Acts 19:17

8. What did many do as a result of this? Acts 19:18, 19

9. After this, what four places did Paul make plans to visit? Acts 19:21

E. The Uproar at Ephesus: Read Acts 19:23-41

1. What did Paul's teaching cause many people of Asia to believe? Acts 19:26b

2. What did his success cause some people to fear? Acts 19:27

3. Therefore, what did they do to try to prevent this? Acts 19:29b, 34b

4. Do you think this turned any of the believers back to idol-worship? Why or why not?

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What proof do we have that the people of Ephesus had really become Christians?
(Compare Acts 19:18, 19 with 2 Corinthians 5:17, 18a)

2. Have I made a complete break with my old life, in order that I might serve the living and true God with all my heart?

PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIANS

1 and 2 Corinthians

While Paul was at Ephesus and after he left, he kept in contact with the church at Corinth by a series of letters. Study the following to see what you can learn of conditions in that church during this period:

A. Paul's Letter from Ephesus: Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 3:1-7, 16:1-24

1. Who came from Corinth to visit Paul in Ephesus? 1 Corinthians 1:11a

2. What did they tell Paul about the church at Corinth? 1 Corinthians 1:11b, 12

3. What did Paul say these divisions proved that the Corinthians were?
1 Corinthians 3:1b

4. Who did he say really deserved the credit for all that he and the other leaders had done?
1 Corinthians 3:5-7

5. What did Paul do to try to correct this situation? 1 Corinthians 4:17

6. What did he later plan to do? 1 Corinthians 4:18-21

7. What other problems existed in the church at that time?
 - a. 1 Corinthians 5:1 _____
 - b. 1 Corinthians 6:1, 6 _____
8. Was the present letter his first to the Corinthians? 1 Corinthians 5:9

9. Who came to visit Paul, probably bringing an answer to his previous letter?
1 Corinthians 16:17 _____
10. About what problems had the Corinthians written to Paul? 1 Corinthians 7:1, 2, 8:1a, 12:1

11. What were false teachers in the church evidently saying about Paul?
1 Corinthians 9:1a, 2a

12. In addition to defending his apostleship in this letter, he also gave special instruction concerning the Lord's supper (11:20), the resurrection (chapter 15), and the collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem (16:1-3).
13. What three places did Paul plan to visit after leaving Ephesus? 1 Corinthians 16:8-9, 5b, 5a-6, 3b-4

22 Bible Discoveries: New Testament Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
The Life of the Early Church: Paul through John's Revelation

14. From whom did Paul send special greetings to the Corinthians, as he closed his letter to them? 1 Corinthians 16:19b

B. Paul's Letter from Macedonia: Read 2 Corinthians 2:12, 13, 7:5-16, 11:23-33

1. After the uproar in Ephesus, Paul started toward Macedonia as he had planned. Why did he not carry out his later plans (1:15, 16) to visit Corinth on his way? 2 Corinthians 1:23

2. When he reached Troas, how did he feel when Titus failed to come with news of the Corinthians? 2 Corinthians 2:12, 13a

3. Therefore, where did he go? 2 Corinthians 2:13b

4. How did he still feel when he arrived there? 2 Corinthians 7:5

5. What finally brought comfort to his heart? 2 Corinthians 7:6, 7, 13

6. What did Titus say Paul's letter had caused the Corinthians to do?
2 Corinthians 7:8-11

7. What did Paul send Titus back to Corinth to do before he himself should arrive there? 2 Corinthians 8:6, 9:1-5

8. Much of this letter gives Paul's defense of his apostleship. Notice all he had already suffered for Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:23-33, 12:7-12

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. How did Paul feel toward his Corinthian converts? 2 Corinthians 11:28

2. Do I have a loving concern for those I have won to the Lord, in spite of all their sins, failures, and lack of growth in the Lord? (See 1 Peter 1:22b)

PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE GALATIANS AND THE ROMANS

Galatians and Romans

Shortly after Paul's letter to the Corinthians from Macedonia, he arrived in Corinth in person (Acts 20:2). While he was there, the needs of two other groups were pressed upon him, and he sought to meet these needs by letters. See now what these needs were:

A. Paul's Letter to the Galatians: Read Galatians 1:6-12, 2:15-3:3, 4:12-21, 6:11

1. Notice that this letter was written, not to a single church, but to a group of churches (Galatians 1:2b), probably including those at Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, and possibly Antioch in Pisidia. What had some leaders begun to do there? Galatians 1:7b

2. What were they trying to get the Galatians to do? Galatians 6:12b, 13b, 4:21

3. Did any of them do this? Galatians 1:6, 3:1, 4:21, 4:17
(See Galatians 6:12a, c, 13c for possible reasons. Note also Galatians 6:14)

4. What did Paul remind them was the only way a person could be justified, or saved? Galatians 2:16b, d, 3:11, 5:6, 6:15

5. From what was Paul suffering when he first came to Galatia? Galatians 4:13-1; 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

6. Yet how had they received him then? Galatians 4:14b, 15b

7. But now what had he become? Galatians 4:16

8. How did Paul still feel toward them, in spite of their attitude toward him? Galatians 4:19, 20, 12

9. Where had Paul gotten the gospel which he had preached in Galatia, and every place he went? Galatians 1:11, 12

10. Therefore, what did he say about the false teachers who had misled them? Galatians 1:8, 9

11. Who actually wrote down this letter? Galatians 6:11

B. Paul's letter to the Romans: Read Romans 1:1-17, 15:14-16:27

1. Although Paul had never preached in Rome, there were Christians there (Romans 1:7). When had some of them probably been saved? Acts 2:1, 5, 10, 37, 41

2. How far had their reputation spread? Romans 1:8b, 16:19a

3. Who may have aroused Paul's interest in this group? Acts 18:1-3; Romans 16:3-5

4. For what did Paul tell them he was continually praying? Romans 1:9-12

5. Had he ever tried to do this in the past? Romans 1:13

6. What had kept him from it? Romans 15:18-22

7. Where did Paul plan to go after reaching Rome? Romans 15:24, 28

8. What did he hope the Roman church would do for him? Romans 15:24d

9. Why could he not come to them immediately, from Corinth? Romans 15:25-26, 28

10. For what did he ask the Roman Christians to pray especially?
Romans 15:30-32

11. Notice Paul's confidence as he planned this trip to Rome. Romans 15:29

12. How many people in Rome did Paul know personally? Romans 16:3-16

13. This letter gives Paul's most complete explanation of the nature of the gospel, as outlined briefly in Galatians. Against what did he especially warn the Romans?
Romans 16:17, 18

14. Who wrote this letter for Paul? Romans 16:22

15. By whom was it sent? Romans 16:1, 2

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Did it matter to Paul what his converts believed? How they behaved? (See Ephesians 4:14-16)

2. Am I careful to insist upon teaching which is correct in its every detail?

** Use chart on page 49

PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY CONCLUDED

Acts 20:1 - 21:15

The Acts narrative continues the story of Paul's travels which in the past few lessons were traced through his epistles. Continue this study below:

A. Paul's Trip to Greece and Back: Read Acts 20:1-16

1. On a map, trace Paul's journey from Ephesus to Troas, Macedonia, and Corinth as outlined in 2 Corinthians 2:12,13 and 1 Corinthians 4:18-21.

2. What happened after Paul had spent three months in Achaia, in southern Greece, where Corinth was located? Acts 20:3

3. Therefore, what did he purpose to do? Acts 20:3b

4. What seven companions on this journey went before him to Troas? Acts 20:4

5. Who actually went *with* Paul from Philippi onward? Acts 20:5 ("us")

6. What did Paul do the night before he was to leave Troas? Acts 20:7b

7. What happened as a result of this? Acts 20:8, 9

8. But what did Paul do about this? Acts 20:10-12

9. How did Paul travel from Troas to Assos? Acts 20:13

10. Trace Paul's journey onward from Miletus. Why did Paul decide not to stop in Ephesus? Acts 20:16

B. Paul at Miletus: Read Acts 20:17-38

1. For whom did Paul send as soon as he arrived in Miletus? Acts 20:17

2. In recounting his life before them, was there anything for which he was sorry or ashamed? Acts 20:18-21, 26, 27, 33-35

3. What did he say was awaiting him in Jerusalem? Acts 20:22, 23

4. Yet why was he still planning to go there? Acts 20:24b

5. Did he ever expect to see the Ephesian elders again? Acts 20:25

6. To what two things did Paul say they should especially take heed? Acts 20:28a

7. Of what two dangers did he warn them? Acts 20:29, 30

a. _____

b. _____

8. Who did he say would care for them in his absence? Acts 20:32a

9. How did the elders feel when Paul left them? Acts 20:36-38

C. Paul at Tyre and Caesarea: Read Acts 21:1-15

1. Trace Paul's journey from Miletus to Tyre. What did the disciples there tell Paul? Acts 21:4b

2. Trace Paul's journey to Caesarea. With whom did he stay there? Acts 21:8b

3. What did the prophet Agabus say would happen to Paul at Jerusalem? Acts 21:11

4. Therefore, what did both his companions and the Christians of Caesarea beg of Paul? Acts 21:12

5. But what did he answer? Acts 21:13b

6. Why was Paul willing to do this? Acts 21:14

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Does God have a special course and ministry for me, as He did for Paul?

2. Am I determined to complete this work, regardless of the cost to me?

PAUL AT JERUSALEM

Acts 21:15 – 23:35

Having completed his third missionary journey, Paul arrived at Jerusalem knowing that trouble would befall him there, and yet being fully persuaded in his own mind that this was the will of God for him. See now what happened after he arrived there:

A. Paul's Arrival in Jerusalem: Read Acts 21:15-26

1. What did James and the elders do when they heard Paul's report of what God had done through him? Acts 20:20a

2. Yet what were they afraid the Jews would do to Paul? Acts 20:21b, 22

3. Therefore, what did they suggest that Paul do to prove that he himself kept the law? Acts 20:23, 24

B. Paul's Seizure in the Temple: Read Acts 21:27-40

1. When the Jews from Asia (the area around Ephesus) saw Paul in the temple, what did they cry out? Acts 21:28a

2. Of what two things did they accuse Paul? Acts 21; 28b
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
3. What were they about to do to Paul? Acts 21:30, 31a

4. Who rescued Paul from the mob? Acts 21:31b, 32

5. Where was Paul taken? Acts 21:34b, 35a

6. What did Paul then request of the chief captain? Acts 21:39b

7. In what language did he address the chief captain? Acts 21:37

C. Paul's Defense Before the Mob: Read Acts 22:1-29

1. In what language did Paul address the Jews in Jerusalem? Acts 22:2

2. To what great events of his past life did Paul refer in his speech?
 - a. Acts 22:3 _____
 - b. Acts 22:4, 5 _____

29 Bible Discoveries: New Testament Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
The Life of the Early Church: Paul through John's Revelation

c. Acts 22:6-16 _____

d. Acts 22:18, 21 _____

3. What word in Paul's speech aroused the anger of the mob? Acts 22:21b

4. What did they cry out? Acts 22:22b

5. What else did they do that showed their anger? Acts 22:23

6. What did the chief captain plan to do to Paul? Acts 22:24b

7. Why did he not carry out this plan? Acts 22:25-29

D. Paul's Appearance Before the Sanhedrin: Read Acts 22:30-23:11

1. What did Paul tell this group that caused them to be divided in their opinion of him?
Acts 23:6b

2. Why did the chief captain send soldiers to take Paul back into the castle? Acts 23:10

3. What encouraging promise did the Lord give Paul the following night
Acts 23:11

E. The Plot Against Paul: Read Acts 23:12-35

1. What were some of the Jews determined to do? Acts 23:12

2. When their plot was discovered, where was Paul sent? Acts 23:23, 24

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Why did God preserve Paul from all his enemies? (See Acts 23:11b)

2. If God still has a word for me to do, need I fear dying before it is done?

PAUL IN CAESAREA

Acts 24 - 26

After having escaped from four attempts of the Jews against his life in Jerusalem, Paul now faced trial in Caesarea. Picture each scene in your mind as you read:

A. Paul's Trial Before Felix the Governor: Read Acts 24:1-27

1. How long was Paul in Caesarea before his accusers arrived? Acts 24:1a

2. Who came with the high priest and elders to inform the governor against Paul? Acts 24:1b

3. What did they accuse Paul of
 - a. being? Acts 24:5 _____
 - b. doing? Acts 24:6 _____
4. Notice how Paul answered these accusations:
 - a. Could he possibly have done all they said in the twelve days since he arrived in Jerusalem? Acts 24:11, 12

 - b. Could they prove the things of which they accused Paul? Acts 24:13

5. What did Paul do besides just answering their charges? Acts 24:14-21

6. After hearing both sides, what decision did Felix make? Acts 24:22

7. How was Paul treated in the meantime? Acts 24:23

8. When Felix sent for Paul privately and heard him speak of Christ, righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, what did Felix do? Acts 24:25b

9. What did he hope Paul would do? Acts 24:26

10. What happened to Felix after two years? Acts 24:27

B. Paul's Trial Before Festus, the Governor: Read Acts 25:1-12

1. Why did the Jews ask Festus to send Paul to Jerusalem for trial? Acts 25:3

2. When he refused, what charges did they bring against Paul in Caesarea? Acts 25:7b

3. When Paul denied these charges, what did Festus ask him? Acts 25:8, 9

31 Bible Discoveries: New Testament Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
The Life of the Early Church: Paul through John's Revelation

4. In stating his refusal, to whom did Paul appeal? Acts 25:11b

5. Therefore, what was Festus' decision? Acts 25:12

C. Paul's Trial Before Agrippa, the King: Read Acts 25:13-26:32

1. When Festus told his visitors about Paul, what did Agrippa (son of Herod who had killed James, Acts 12:2) say? Acts 25:22

2. In opening this trial, what did Festus say of Paul? Acts 25:25-27

3. When Paul was permitted to answer for himself, what did he do?
Acts 26:1-23

4. What did Festus cry out after Paul's testimony? Acts 26:24

5. When Paul denied this, and addressed the king once more, what did Agrippa answer?
Acts 26:28

6. After consulting privately, what did all present decide about Paul?
Acts 26:31b

7. Yet where must he still go? Why? Acts 27:1, 26:32

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. How could Paul be so completely unconcerned for himself at his trials, and yet so greatly concerned for his judges? Acts 25:25, 26:31, and 23:11.

2. Who guided the judges' decision that Paul should be sent to Rome?

PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME

Acts 27:1 - 28:9

Although everyone who tried Paul agreed that he had done nothing worthy of death or bonds, he must still be sent to Rome because he had appealed to Caesar when threatened with death by the Jews of Jerusalem. Read about this journey below:

A. The Journey Begun: Read Acts 27:1-13

1. Who had the responsibility of conducting Paul and some other prisoners safely to Rome? Acts 27:1

2. What *two* friends of Paul's accompanied him on this journey? Acts 27:2 (be sure to notice the "we")

3. Trace this journey on a map. Why did they sail *between* Cyprus and the mainland? Acts 27:4

4. What did they do at Myra, a city of Lycia? Acts 27:6

5. Because it took so much time to get to Cnidus and to Fair Havens on the island of Crete, what did Paul warn would happen if they continued the journey then? Acts 27:10

6. Why did the centurion decide to travel just a little further before stopping for the winter? Acts 27:12

B. Trouble on the Journey: Read Acts 27:14-38

1. What happened just after they left port? Acts 27:14, 15

2. What did they have to do to keep from sinking? Acts 27:17-19

3. How bad was the storm? Acts 27:20

4. How long were they out in it? Acts 27:27, 33

5. At the end of the time, what did Paul tell them? Acts 27:22-25

6. What did the sailors do when they found they were near to some country? Acts 27:29

7. What did Paul do, and advise them to do, while waiting for day? Acts 27:33-36

C. The Journey Interrupted: Read Acts 27:39-44

1. What happened when they tried to bring the ship to shore? Acts 27:41

2. What did the soldiers advise that they should do with the prisoners? Why? Acts 27:42

3. Why did the centurion not do this? Acts 27:43a

4. How many were on the ship? Acts 27:37

5. What happened to them all? Acts 27:43, 44

D. The Visit on Melita (Malta): Read Acts 28:1-9

1. What happened to Paul as he was helping the people of the island build a fire? Acts 28:3

2. Why did the people of the island think this had happened to him? Acts 28:4

3. When he did not die from this, what did they think of him? Acts 28:5, 6

4. What miracles did Paul perform there? Acts 28:8, 9

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Could God possibly fail to keep His promise that Paul would witness in Rome?

2. Have I learned to face troubles and trials with confidence, as Paul did, absolutely certain that God will keep His promises to me?
(See 2 Timothy 4:18)

PAUL IN ROME

Acts 28:10 - 31

Having overcome the dangers which faced him in the first part of his journey through the storm, the shipwreck, the soldiers, the savages, and the snakebite, Paul was now ready to continue his journey to Rome. Read to see what made this possible, and what happened after he arrived there:

A. Paul's Departure from Melita: Read Acts 28:10, 11

1. How long did Paul and his company stay on the island of Melita?

Acts 28:11a

2. Since their ship was wrecked, how did they continue the journey toward Rome? Acts 28:11b
-

3. What did the people of Melita do for them when they left? Acts 28:10
-

B. Paul's Arrival at Rome: Read Acts 28:12-16

1. At what three cities did Paul's ship stop on the way to Rome? Acts 28:12, 13
-

2. Trace this journey on a map. How long did they stay at Puteoli? Why?

Acts 28:14

3. What did the Christians from Rome do when they heard that Paul was coming? Acts 28:15a
-

4. What did Paul do when he saw them? Acts 28:15b
-

5. What was done with the other prisoners when they arrived in Rome?

Acts 28:16a

6. But what was Paul allowed to do? Acts 28:16b
-

C. Paul's Ministry in Rome: Read Acts 28:17-31

1. How long was Paul in Rome before he began, on a large scale, the work God had led him there to do? Acts 28:17a
-

2. For whom did he send first of all? Acts 28:17b
-

36 Bible Discoveries: New Testament Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
The Life of the Early Church: Paul through John's Revelation

3. After explaining to them his innocence, for what reason did Paul tell them he was kept in chains? Acts 28:20b

4. What did the Jews then ask of him? Acts 28:22a

5. Why were they especially eager to hear from Paul himself about his message? Acts 28:22b

6. As a result of the first gathering, how many later came to hear Paul preach? Acts 28:23a

7. About what two things did Paul preach to them? Acts 28:23b

8. What was the basis for his reasoning with them? Acts 28:23c

9. How long did his conference with them continue? Acts 28:23d

10. What was the result of this session? Acts 28:24

11. When some of them refused to believe, to whom did Paul say he would now preach? Acts 28:28

12. How long did Paul continue his ministry in Rome at this time? Acts 28:30a

13. Notice the three things he did during this time: Acts 28:30b, 31a. What was his attitude as he did this? Acts 28:31b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. This is the end of the book of Acts. Does it seem finished to you? Why?

2. Is God's work, as outlined in Acts 1:8, finished today? Or is there still something He would have me to do to complete it?

PAUL'S LETTERS FROM THE ROMAN PRISON

Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, and Philipians

Two of the great questions left unanswered in the book of Acts are, "What happened at Paul's trial?" and "How did he spend the rest of his life?" A few facts concerning these matters may be gleaned from the letters which he wrote during this period. Study the following to see what you can learn:

A. Paul's Letter to Philemon: Read Philemon 1-25

1. What did Paul call himself as he wrote this letter to Philemon? Philemon 9, 1

2. Whom did he send to Philemon, and *beseech* (beg) him to receive? Philemon 10, 12, 17

3. What had this man been to Philemon? Philemon 11a, 16a

4. But what had he done? Philemon 18, 15a

5. Even though Paul was a prisoner, what had he been able to do for Onesimus? Philemon 10b and *THINK!*

6. What great change had taken place in Onesimus as a result of this? Philemon 11, 16

7. What else did Paul ask Philemon to do for him? Why? Philemon 22

B. Paul's Letter to the Colossians: Read Colossians 4:7-18

1. Who traveled with Onesimus to Colosse, and carried a letter to the church there? Colossians 4:7-9

2. What two things did Paul want him to do there? Colossians 4:9, 8

3. What others were with Paul, and sent greetings in these letters? Colossians 4:10-14; Philemon 23, 24

4. What did Paul ask these people to do for him? Colossians 4:3, 18

5. What request did Paul make concerning this letter and another he wrote at the same time? Colossians 4:16

C. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians: Read Ephesians 6:18-24

1. By whom was this letter carried? Ephesians 6:21

38 Bible Discoveries: New Testament Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
The Life of the Early Church: Paul through John's Revelation

2. Notice that the purpose of his coming to them was the same as that stated in Colossians: Ephesians 6:22. What did Paul ask these people to do for him? Ephesians 6:18, 19
-

D. Paul's Letter to the Philippians: Read Philippians 4:10-23, 1:1-26

1. Who came to Rome, bearing gifts from the church at Philippi? Philippians 4:18 _____
 2. What did this cause Paul to do? Philippians 4:10-14 _____
 3. Was this the first time they had sent gifts to Paul? Philippians 4:15, 16 _____
 4. Was the Philippian church a rich church? 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 _____
 5. Therefore, what promise did Paul give them? Philippians 4:19 _____
 6. In Paul's thank-you note for these gifts, sent back by the same messenger (Philippians 2:25), what did he say he hoped would happen soon? Philippians 2:24 _____
 7. Whom did he plan to send even before that, as soon as he knew how his trial turned out? Philippians 2:19, 23 _____
 8. What was Paul's attitude all the time he was in prison? Philippians 1:4, 2:17, 4:10, 11 _____
 9. Who had become Christians by this time (possibly a year after the above letters were written)? Philippians 4:22 _____
-

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Did Paul's being a prisoner hinder his work for his Lord? Philippians 1:12 _____
 2. Do I continue working joyfully for my Lord, in spite of persecutions, difficulties and hindrances which I may encounter? Philippians 3:13, 14 _____
-

PAUL'S LAST LETTERS

1 Timothy; Titus; 2 Timothy

Three other letters were written by Paul after those studied in the previous lessons. Study these now to see what you can discover about events toward the end of his life:

A. Paul's First Letter to Timothy: Read 1 Timothy 1:1-3, 6:20, 21

1. What two places had Paul visited by the time he wrote this letter?

1 Timothy 1:3a

2. For what purpose had he left Timothy in the first of these places?

1 Timothy 1:3b, 4

B. Paul's Letter to Titus: Read Titus 1:1-5, 3:12-15

1. What other place had Paul visited by the time he wrote this letter? Titus 1:5a

2. For what purpose had he left Titus there? Titus 1:4, 5

3. Where was Paul planning to spend the winter? Titus 3:12
-

C. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy: Read 2 Timothy 1:1-18, 4:6-22

1. By the time Paul wrote this letter, he had visited several other places:

- a. Where had he left Trophimus sick? 2 Timothy 4:20b

- b. Where had he left his overcoat and books? 2 Timothy 4:13

- c. Where had he left Erastus? 2 Timothy 4:20a

2. If Paul was free to visit all these places, could he have been a prisoner any more?
(*THINK!*)
-

3. Could these visits fit logically into the journeys recorded in the book of Acts? (*THINK!*)
-

4. What does this prove must have happened as a result of Paul's first trial? (*THINK!*)
-

5. **Note:** There are several reliable statements from early Christian writers which seem to prove that Paul went to Spain as he had planned. Clement, the disciple of Paul mentioned in Philippians 4:3, says that Paul had preached the gospel "in the east and in the west"; and that he "had gone to the extremity (end) of the west" before his martyrdom. From a Roman author, this could mean only one thing—Spain. Other

40 Bible Discoveries: New Testament Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
The Life of the Early Church: Paul through John's Revelation

witnesses to this fact are Eusebius, Chrysostom, and St. Jerome. He may also have gone to Britain.

6. Conybeare and Howson, authors of "Life and Epistles of Saint Paul", estimate that Paul was free about five years—spending one year in Macedonia and Asia Minor, two years in Spain, and two years in the travels listed above.

7. What was Paul's condition by the time he wrote his second letter to Timothy? 2 Timothy 1:8, 16

8. Where was he? 2 Timothy 1:17

9. Possibly it was at Nicopolis, not too far from Rome, that Paul was arrested the second time, and sent to Rome for trial. Which of his friends were with him at this time? 2 Timothy 4:9-13, 21a

10. How many had stood with him as his first charge was answered? 2 Timothy 4:16, 17

11. What did he expect to be the outcome of this trial? 2 Timothy 4:6

12. Did he fear this? 2 Timothy 4:7,8

13. Where did he expect to be soon? 2 Timothy 4:18

14. **Note:** Tradition says that Paul was condemned by Nero, possibly on a charge of conspiring with Christians in Rome to burn the city. Then, probably in the summer of A.D. 68, he was beheaded just outside Rome by Nero's swordsmen.

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What happened to Paul as soon as he was absent from the body? 2 Corinthians 5:8, Philippians 1:23b, 21b, 1 Corinthians 15:54

2. Will my death be one of victory and gain, because I go to meet my Lord?

SUMMARY OF PAUL'S LIFE AND WORK

In the second great division of the book of Acts, chapters 13-28, the main character is undoubtedly **Paul**, who went out from the city of Antioch in Syria and reached mainly the Gentiles. See what you can learn from this summary of his life:

A. Paul's Early Heritage: Read Acts 22:3, 25-29, 23:6, 26:4, 5

1. What was Paul's race by birth? Acts 22:3a

2. In what city was he born? Acts 22:3b

3. **Note:** Locate this city on a map. Tarsus was essentially a Greek city, where the Greek language was spoken and Greek literature was cultivated. It was the third university center of the world, surpassed at that time only by Athens and Alexandria. Thus Paul became a Greek by culture.
4. In what city had Paul received his schooling? Acts 22:3c, 21:17

5. What very famous man had been his teacher? Acts 22:3d, 5:34

6. What subject matter had he studied? Acts 22:3c

7. To what group of the Jewish religion did Paul belong as a result of this schooling? Acts 23:6, 26:5

8. What name could be applied to Paul because of his citizenship? Acts 22:25, 27:29b

9. In what two ways could this citizenship be obtained? Acts 22:28

10. How had Paul obtained it? Acts 22:28b

11. Although Paul's father was of the purest Hebrew stock (See Romans 11:1; Philippians 3:5), he had probably obtained this citizenship. What three things could not legally be done to a Roman citizen? Acts 22:29, 25b, 16:37a

12. This citizenship also meant that one could not be crucified, and had the right to appeal to Rome for justice. (See Acts 25:10-12, where Paul did just this)

13. Thus we see that Paul was a **Jew** by race, a **Greek** by culture, a **Roman** by citizenship, and a **Pharisee** by religion. Notice how each part of his background helped him in fulfilling God's purpose for his life.

B. God's Plan for Paul's Life: Read Acts 9:10-16, 22:12-16

42 Bible Discoveries: New Testament Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
The Life of the Early Church: Paul through John's Revelation

1. To what three groups had God chosen Paul to witness, even before he was saved? Acts 9:15

2. What else had God said Paul must do for Him? Acts 9:16

C. God's Plan Carried Out:

1. To whom did Paul minister especially on his first missionary journey? Acts 13:5 _____

7. What two things did he teach that upset these people?

a. Acts 17:3b _____

b. Acts 15:5, 24 and *THINK!* _____

3. To whom did he turn after they had rejected his message? Acts 13:46b

4. What group of the Gentiles did he especially upset on his second missionary journey? Acts 16:20, 21

5. What was the teaching which so upset them? Acts 17:7b

6. What other group of the Gentiles did he especially upset on his third missionary journey? Acts 19:10b

7. What was the teaching which so upset them? Acts 19:26d

8. Before what kings did Paul bear testimony for his Lord? Acts 26:27, 28, 25:12b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. When did God begin to prepare Paul for his life's work? (See Ephesians 1:4)

2. What is God able to do with every circumstance of my ancestry and past? (See Philippians 1:12)

SUMMARY OF THE OTHER APOSTLES' LIVES AND WORK

Another great question left unanswered by the Book of Acts is, "What happened to the other apostles? Where did they labor, and how did they die?" Study the following to see what is said in Scripture concerning them, and some of the outstanding facts which may be gleaned from secular history about their lives and work:

A. The Work of Those Named James:

1. What happened to James the brother of John, and the son of Zebedee--one of the three in Jesus' "inner circle"--about twelve years after Jesus' ascension? Acts 12:1, 2

2. What other of Jesus' original twelve apostles was also named James? Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18; Acts 1:13

3. **Note:** This James was also called James the Less (Mark 15:40), probably because he was younger or shorter of stature than James the brother of John. Nothing is certainly known of this apostle's work, but he is credited with having preached in Egypt, and a strong tradition exists in Spain that Christianity was established there by a St. James, who seems to have been this James.
4. What other James is mentioned in the Bible? Galatians 1:19

5. Some feel that this James is the same as James the Less because he is here called an apostle. But what is said of the Lord's brothers in John 7:5?

6. This makes it seem very unlikely that James the Lord's brother was one of the original twelve. Also see Acts 1:13,14, where James the Less or the son of Alphaeus is listed among the eleven, and Jesus' brethren are listed separately, as though none of them was among the eleven.
7. What wonderful privilege was given shortly after Jesus' resurrection to a man named James? 1 Corinthians 15:7

8. Notice that he seems to be distinguished from the twelve. This seems to indicate that he was not one of the apostles, and therefore probably a separate person from James the Less.
9. Whether or not these two men were the same, where do we certainly know that James the Lord's brother labored for many years? Acts 12:17; 15:4a, 13; Galatians 1:18,19, 2:1, 9; Acts 21:17,18

10. What position did this James seem to have in the church at Jerusalem? Acts 12:17, 15:13; Galatians 2:9; Acts 21:18

11. Reliable historians such as Eusebius, Clement and Hegesippus say that he continued in this position of leadership for about 30 years, until A.D. 61 or 62 when he was martyred. His enemies, having condemned him in their council, gave him opportunity to renounce his Lord from the top of the temple in the presence of all the people. But instead, he cried out, "Why do ye ask me respecting Jesus, the son of man? He is now sitting in the heaven, on the right hand of great power, and is about to come on the clouds of heaven."

44 Bible Discoveries: New Testament Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
The Life of the Early Church: Paul through John's Revelation

At this the crowds below cried out loudly, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" And the enraged scribes and Pharisees rushed upon him and threw him down the temple steps. But he was not killed at once, and rising to his knees prayed fervently for his murderers, until a man in the crowd killed him with a fuller's stick.

12. It was probably this James, the brother of the Lord, also called James the Just and "camel-knee James" since his knees were made callous from kneeling, who wrote the Epistle (letter) of James. Yet what did he call himself?
James 1:1
-

B. The Work of Simon Peter:

1. In what places do we certainly know that Peter labored after Jesus' ascension? Acts 2:14, 9:32b, 36a, 10:24a, Galatians 2:11

8. To what people did he write a letter, whom he had evidently visited?
1 Peter 1:1

3. Where was he when he wrote this letter? 1 Peter 5:13

4. What two well-known men were there with him? 1 Peter 5:12a, 13b

5. There is a tradition that Peter was the first Bishop of Rome. However, did he seem to be there when Paul wrote to the Romans, or when he wrote his letters from Rome?
Romans 15:3-15, Philippians 4:22, Colossians 4:14

6. Irenaeus and Tertullian, very reliable men, both assert that Peter died at Rome. Tradition says he was crucified head downwards at his own request, since he felt himself unworthy to suffer in the same manner as his Lord.

C. The Work of the Other Apostles:

Very little is certainly known of the work of the other apostles (except John, see below), but the following traditions are interesting to note:

Thomas undoubtedly went to India, since there are about 200,000 Christians in the South of India today who trace their worship to the teaching and apostolic customs of Thomas.

Philip is credited with having gone to Phrygia in Asia Minor, together with his sister Mariamne and his long-time friend Nathanael Bartholomew, and freed the city of Hierapolis from worshipping a huge snake.

Nathanael Bartholomew is said to have gone after this to Lycaonia in Asia Minor and to Albanople in Armenia, where he was cruelly crucified. Another legend says he preached in the part of India bordering on Ethiopia, either before or after the stay in Hierapolis.

Matthew or Levi probably stayed in Jerusalem with the other apostles for the first few years after the ascension, and there are no certain records as to his journeys after that. A fourth-century historian speaks of him as preaching in Ethiopia or Arabia.

Simon Zelotes or the Zealot is said to have gone to the British Isles.

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, is credited with having labored to the north of Asia Minor, travelling as far as Persia, South Russia, and Siberia, and then returning through northern Asia Minor to the various provinces of Greece to Potracea in Achaia (southern Greece), where he was crucified on a *decussate* (shaped like an X) cross. He is said to

45 Bible Discoveries:New Testament Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
The Life of the Early Church: Paul through John's Revelation

have remained alive for two days, preaching to the people from his cross. This cross was used in the ancient flags of Burgundy, Austria, Russia and Scotland, and is seen today in the flags of the United Kingdom of Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa.

Judas Lebbaeus Thaddaeus, may have preached in Arabia, Syria, Mesopotamia, and Persia, but no certain account remains. The book of Jude may have been written by him, although in Jude 17, 18 the author seems to exclude himself from the group of the apostles. Therefore, it was probably written by Judas the brother of Christ.

Matthias, who was chosen to take the place of Judas Iscariot, is said to have labored first in Judea and then in Cappadocia, where he was martyred about A.D. 16 or 64.

D. The Work of John:

1. What task was given to John the beloved disciple in the closing moments before Jesus' death? John 19:26, 27

2. All historians agree that John stayed in Jerusalem fulfilling this sacred trust until after the death of Mary. He then went to Asia Minor, possibly about A.D. 66, and made his headquarters in Ephesus. You will learn more about his life there from the studies in Revelation which follow.
3. John wrote five books of the Bible: one gospel, three epistles and Revelation.
4. John is the only apostle who did not die a martyr's death, but he lived a martyr's life (See Revelation 1:9 for the one event of his very old age).

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Which of the apostles encountered the least difficulty in serving his Lord?

2. Am I willing to lay down my life for my Lord, or to serve Him virtually unknown, or to work publicly for Him for years, as He sees fit?

** Use chart on page 49

THE REVELATION

Within a few years after John's arrival in Ephesus, all the other apostles had laid down their lives for their Lord. But John, who had been the youngest of the apostles, lived on for some thirty years, reportedly dying at the beginning of Trajan's reign (about the year A. D. 98) in the 98th year of his life. See what you can learn of his labors during these years from the book of Revelation, written about A. D. 96:

JOHN'S GREAT VISION Revelation 1

A. Introduction to the Book: Read Revelation 1:1-3

1. The word *revelation* means that which is revealed, or disclosed. Of whom is this book especially a revelation? Revelation 1:1a

2. What was the main purpose for this book? Revelation 1:1b

3. What does God promise to those who read and hear the words of this book? Revelation 1:3

B. The Recipients and Writer of the Book: Read Revelation 1:4-9

1. To whom was this book written? Revelation 1:4a, 11b

2. Locate these places on a map. What were these people undergoing at this time? Revelation 1:9a and *THINK!*

3. Where was John when he wrote this book? Revelation 1:9b

4. Locate this place on a map. Why was John there? Revelation 1:9c

C. The First Event of the Book: Read Revelation 1:10-16

1. As John was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, what did he hear behind him? Revelation 1:10

2. When John turned around, whom did he see? Revelation 1:12a, 13a

3. Describe this One, picturing in your mind each detail: Revelation 1:13b-16
 - a. Clothing: _____
 - b. Head and hair: _____

47 Bible Discoveries: New Testament Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
The Life of the Early Church: Paul through John's Revelation

- c. Eyes: _____
- d. Feet: _____
- e. Voice: _____
- f. Weapon: _____
- g. Face: _____

- 4. What characteristics or attributes of Jesus are revealed in this vision? (*THINK!*) _____

- 5. Among what was He standing? Revelation 1:13a

- 6. What did these represent? Revelation 1:20c

- 7. What was He holding in His right hand? Revelation 1:16a

- 8. What did these represent? Revelation 1:20b

- 9. Therefore, what did this vision show John that Jesus was doing? (*THINK!*)

D. The Effect of the Vision on John: Read Revelation 1:17-20

- 1. What did John do when he saw the Person in this vision? Revelation 1:17a

- 2. What message was given to John at this time? Revelation 1:17, 18

- 3. What command was given to him? Revelation 1:19

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

- 1. What effect would this message have on the churches who first received it?

- 2. What is Jesus' relationship to me today? What is He doing for me?

THE MESSAGES TO THE CHURCHES

Revelation 2 – 3

After revealing Himself in all His glory, purity, holiness and power, protecting and guiding all the churches, the Lord Jesus gave John a special message for each of the churches individually:

A. The Message to the Church of Ephesus: Read Revelation 2:1-7

1. How is the giver of this message described? Revelation 2:1
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
2. For what good qualities does He commend this church? Revelation
 - a. 2:2a (3 things) _____
 - b. 2:2b _____
 - c. 2:2c _____
 - d. 2:3 _____
 - e. 2:6 _____
3. For what bad quality does He reprove them? Revelation 2:4

4. What warning does He give to this church? Revelation 2:5

5. What does He promise to those of this church who will overcome?
Revelation 2:7b

B. The Message to the Church of Smyrna: Read Revelation 2:8-11

1. How is the giver of this message described? Revelation 2:8

2. For what good qualities does He commend this church? Revelation 2:9
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
3. Does He reprove this church for any bad qualities?

4. What warning does He give this church concerning their future?
Revelation 2:10b
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
5. What special message and promise does He give them? Revelation 2:10a, c

6. What does He promise to those of this church who will overcome? Revelation 2:11b

C. The Message to the Church of Pergamum: Read Revelation 2:12-17

1. How is the giver of this message described? Revelation 2:12

2. For what good qualities does He commend this church? Revelation 2:13

49 Bible Discoveries: New Testament Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
The Life of the Early Church: Paul through John's Revelation

- a. _____
- b. _____

3. For what bad qualities does He reprove them? Revelation 2:14, 15

- a. _____
- b. _____

4. What warning does He give this church? Revelation 2:16

5. What does He promise to those of this church who will overcome? Revelation 2:17b

D. The Message to the Church of Thyatira: Read Revelation 2: 18-29

1. How is the giver of this message described? Revelation 2:18

2. For what good qualities does He commend this church? Revelation 2:19
(5 things) _____

3. For what bad quality does He reprove them? Revelation 2:20, 21

4. What warning does He give to this church? Revelation 2:22, 23

5. What special message does He give those who have not held the false doctrine?
Revelation 2:24, 25

6. What does He promise to those of this church who will overcome? Revelation 2:26-28

E. The Message to the Church of Sardis: Read Revelation 3:1-6

1. How is the giver of this message described? Revelation 3:1a

2. For what bad quality does He reprove this church? Revelation 3:1b

3. What warning does He give to them? Revelation 3:2, 3

4. For what good quality does He commend some in this church?
Revelation 3:4a

5. What special promise does He give to them? Revelation 3:4b

6. What does He promise to all in this church who will overcome? Revelation 3:5

F. The Message to the Church of Philadelphia: Read Revelation 3:7-13

1. How is the giver of this message described? Revelation 3:7

- a. (3 things) _____
- b. (2 things) _____

2. For what good qualities does He commend this church? Revelation 3:8

50 Bible Discoveries: New Testament Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
The Life of the Early Church: Paul through John's Revelation

3. What special promise does He give them? Revelation 3:10

4. What warning does He give them? Revelation 3:11

5. What does He promise to those of this church who will overcome? Revelation 3:12

G. The Message to the Church of Laodicea: Read Revelation 3:14-22

1. How is the giver of this message described? Revelation 3:14

2. For what bad qualities does He reprove this church? Revelation 3:15, 17

a. v.15

b. v. 17a

c. v. 17b

3. What warning does He give to them? Revelation 3:16b

4. What advice does He give to them? Revelation 3:18, 19

5. What special promise does He give them? Revelation 3:20

6. What does He promise to those of this church who will overcome? Revelation 3:21

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What do all of these letters have in common?

2. With what command does each letter close? Revelation 2:7a, 11a, 17a

3. Which of these churches is most nearly like my church? Like me personally?

4. If Jesus were to write a letter to me, what good points and bad points would He mention?

5. What warnings and promises would He give me?

** Use chart on page 50

THE THRONE SCENE

Revelation 4 – 5

After recording the vision which he had seen and the messages to the various churches concerning conditions which existed in John's own day, John was ready to receive the third part of God's revelation to him—concerning the things which should come to pass hereafter (Revelation 1:19). As you read, try to picture in your mind the things that John saw:

A. The Scene in Heaven: Read Revelation 4:1-8

1. After a door was opened in heaven, what did a voice invite John to do? Revelation 4:1

2. What did John see first in heaven? Revelation 4:2, 3

3. What circled above the throne? Revelation 4:3b

4. Who was seated in the twenty-four seats about the throne? Revelation 4:4a

5. What two things were they wearing? Revelation 4:4b

6. What was burning before the throne? Revelation 4:5b

7. Who were in the midst and round about the throne? Revelation 4:6b

8. What two characteristics did these all have in common? Revelation 4:6c, 8a

9. How were they different from each other? Revelation 4:7

B. The Continual Action in Heaven: Read Revelation 4:8-11

1. What did the four beasts occupy themselves in doing day and night? Revelation 4:8b

2. What two things did the twenty-four elders do when they saw this? Revelation 4:9, 10

3. Why did they say the One on the throne was worthy of this? Revelation 4:11

4. From Revelation 4:11a, who would you say the One on the throne is?

C. A Specific Event in Heaven: Read Revelation 5:1-14

1. What kind of book did John see in the hand of the One on the throne? Revelation 5:1

2. For what were those in heaven searching? Revelation 5:2

3. What was the result of their search? Revelation 5:3

4. What did John do when he saw this? Revelation 5:4

5. Who finally came forth to open the book? Revelation 5:6, 7

6. By what two names was He called? Revelation 5:5b

7. What happened when He took the book to open it? Revelation 5:8-13
 - b. 5:8, 9a _____
 - c. 11, 12 _____
 - d. 5:13 _____
8. Why did they feel He was worthy to open the book? Revelation 5:9b, 10

9. From Revelation 5:9b-10, who would you say this Person is?

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Are God and Jesus still worthy of worship today?

2. How long has it been since I really worshipped them?

3. Do I enjoy worship? If not, would I enjoy heaven where everyone worships?

THE SEVEN SEALS

Revelation 6 – 7

After the Lamb took the book from the One on the throne, He began to open the seals that closed the book. As He opened each seal, certain events took place which are described for us in picture language. As you read, seek first of all to see the picture that is presented and briefly summarize it. Then through careful thought, see if you can discover what the picture is intended to represent:

A. The Opening of the First Four Seals: Read Revelation 6:1-8

1. What did John see when each of the first four seals was opened?

	Animal:	Rider:	What did he do?	Meaning:
1 st : Rev. 6:2		with:		
2 nd : Rev. 6:4		with:		
3 rd : Rev. 6:5		with:		
4 th : Rev. 6:8		named:		

2. Where did these events take place? Revelation 6:4b, 8b

B. The Opening of the Fifth and Sixth Seals: Read Revelation 6:9-17

1. Whom did John see when the fifth seal was opened? Revelation 6:9

2. When they asked how long it would be before their blood would be avenged, what were they told? Revelation 6:10, 11

3. When the sixth seal was opened, what six unusual things happened? Revelation 6:12-14. (See Matthew 24:29-31 to discover what will happen after events such as these).

4. What did men on earth do as a result? Revelation 6:15, 16a

5. Why do you think they did this?

6. What time had come? Revelation 6:17

C. Events Between the Sixth and Seventh Seals: Read Revelation 7:1-17

1. What were the angels told must happen before they could hurt the earth, the sea, and the trees? Revelation 7:3

2. Of what nation were those who were sealed? Revelation 7:4b

3. Where was the seal placed? Revelation 7:3b

4. What do you think was the purpose of this seal? Revelation 7:3 and *THINK!*

5. What may have happened to these people? (See Revelation 1:7; Romans 11:26a)

6. Whom did John see in heaven after this? Revelation 7:9a

7. Who were these people? Revelation 7:14b

8. Notice the relationship of these people to those described in connection with the Fifth Seal. Revelation 6:9-11

9. What were they going to do in the future? Revelation 7:15

10. What blessings would they enjoy? Revelation 7:15b-17

D. The Seventh Seal: Read Revelation 8:1, 2

Notice that the opening of this seal leads to the blowing of the seven trumpets, which will be studied in the next lesson.

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Am I looking forward to seeing the face of Him that sits on the throne?

2. What will *I* do when the day of the Lamb's wrath arrives?

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

Revelation 8 – 11

At the opening of the seventh seal, seven angels in heaven were given trumpets which they were to blow. Notice what happened as each angel sounded his trumpet:

A. The Blowing of the First Four Trumpets: Read Revelation 8:1-13

1. What was offered to God after the seventh seal was opened and before the seven angels blew their trumpets? Revelation 8:1-4

2. Tell briefly what happened when each angel sounded and the result:

- a. 1st: Revelation 8:7

- b. 2nd: Revelation 8:8, 9

- c. 3rd: Revelation 8:10, 11

- d. 4th: Revelation 8:12

3. What did another angel say after these four trumpets had been blown? Revelation 8:13

B. The Blowing of the Fifth and Sixth Trumpets: Read Revelation 9:1-21

1. When the fifth angel sounded his trumpet, what two things came out of the bottomless pit? Revelation 9:1-3

2. What were they commanded to hurt and how? Revelation 9:4, 5, 10

3. What did men do as a result? Revelation 9:6

4. When the sixth angel sounded, what came forth to destroy?
Revelation 9:15-17

5. What did they do and how? Revelation 9:18, 19

6. What did the people who were not killed in this way do? Revelation 9:20, 21

C. Events Between the Sixth and Seventh Trumpets: Read Revelation 10:1-11:14

1. When the mighty angel with the little book cried out, what happened? Revelation 10:3

2. What was John then told? Revelation 10:4

3. What prediction did the angel make? Revelation 10:6b, 7

4. After John ate the little book, what was he told he must yet do?
Revelation 10:11 _____

5. What was John told would happen during a period of:

a. 42 months? Revelation 11:2b

b. 1,260 days? Revelation 11:3, 5, 6

6. a. How many years would each of these be?

b. What would happen at the end of this time? Revelation 11:7, 8

7. How would the people on earth feel about this? Revelation 11:9, 10

8. What would happen after 3 ½ days? Revelation 11:11, 12

9. What would happen to the earth after this? Revelation 11:13

D. The Blowing of the Seventh Trumpet: Read Revelation 11:15-19

1. Why did the ones in heaven praise God after this? Revelation 11:15b, 17b

2. What time did they say had now come? Revelation 11:18

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Did the people turn to God as a result of His judgments? His two witnesses?

2. What might I do, if I decide to wait until this time to accept Jesus as Lord?

THE GREAT WARFARE

Revelation 12 – 14

One great climax of the book of Revelation was reached with the sounding of the seventh trumpet, after which the angel declared that time would be no more. Now seek to discover when the following events occur in relation to those already studied:

A. The First Battle: Read Revelation 12:1-6

1. Name and describe the three characters in this battle:
 - a. Revelation 12:1-2, 5a _____
 - b. Revelation 12:3, 4b, 9 _____
 - c. Revelation 12:5 _____
2. Seek to determine whom each of these characters represents. Note this above.

B. The Second Battle: Read Revelation 12:7-17

1. Where did this battle take place? Revelation 12:7a

2. Who led the two opposing sides? Revelation 12:7b

3. Who won? Revelation 12:7c, 8

4. What were their weapons? Revelation 12:11

5. What happened to Satan after this? Revelation 12:9

6. What had he been doing before this time? Revelation 12:10b

7. What did he do after this? Revelation 12:13, 17

C. The Third Battle: Read Revelation 13:1-18

1. In this battle, two beasts helped Satan. Chart these facts about them:

	First Beast:	Second Beast:
a. Came From:	vs. 1	vs. 11
b. Description:	vs. 1, 2a	vs. 11
c. Received Power From:	vs. 2b	vs. 12
d. Activities:	vs. 3	vs. 12b
	vs. 6	vs. 13
	vs. 7	vs. 14a
		vs. 15a
		vs. 15b
e. Result of His Work:	vs. 4, 8	vs. 16, 17

2. What kind of leader does each seem to be?
-

D. The Fourth Battle: Read Revelation 14:1-20

1. Who appeared after this on Mount Zion? Revelation 14:1

2. Notice the messages of two angels in Revelation 14:7, 8. What did a third angel say? Revelation 14:9-12

3. What was John then commanded to write? Revelation 14:13

4. Who next appeared? What had He come to do? Revelation 14:14, 16

5. What did He do with those whom He reaped? Revelation 14:19, 20

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Why did the people of the earth have to suffer in this way?

3. For what am I asking if I reject God's offers of mercy? Revelation 14:19b

THE SEVEN BOWLS

Revelation 15 – 16

Notice that there is no clear connection to indicate that the seven vials follow the events of chapters 11-14 in chronological order. As you study, see if you think that they do:

A. Events Before the Pouring Out of the Bowls: Read Revelation 15:1-8

1. What did John see next in heaven? Revelation 15:1a

2. What was to be completed in them? Revelation 15:1b

3. Who else did John see in heaven? Revelation 15:2

4. What were they doing? Revelation 15:2b-4

5. Of what events previously studied does this scene remind you? (See Revelation 4, 5, 7:9-17 and 11:15-17)

6. Who gave the seven angels the bowls of God's wrath? Revelation 16:7

B. The Pouring Out of the Bowls: Read Revelation 16:1-21

1. Show what happened as the angels poured out their bowls:

Poured On:	What Happened as a Result	Reaction:
1 st : Rev. 16:2		Rev. 16:10b-11a
2 nd : Rev. 16:3		None
3 rd : Rev. 16:4		Rev. 16:5-7
4 th : Rev. 16:8		Rev. 16:9b
5 th : Rev. 16:10a		Rev. 16:11b
6 th : Rev. 16:12		Rev. 16:14
7 th : Rev. 16:17a		Rev. 16:21b

2. What relationship do you notice between the first four bowls and the first four trumpets?
 (*THINK!*)

60 Bible Discoveries: New Testament Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
The Life of the Early Church: Paul through John's Revelation

3. What persuaded the people of earth to react as they did to the sixth bowl? Revelation 16:13, 14

4. To what place were they gathered together? Revelation 16:16

5. What warning is given in connection with this bowl? Revelation 16:15

6. What statement was made after this? Revelation 16:17b

7. Of what events studied previously do these events remind you? (See Revelation 6:12-14)

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. How do men's reactions to these judgments compare with their reactions to those judgments studied previously?

2. Have I ever suffered a judgment from God?

3. What was my reaction?

4. What **should** be my reaction? (See Hebrews 12:5b, 6; Proverbs 29:1)

CHRIST'S FINAL CONQUEST

Revelation 17:1 – 20:15

After seeing increasingly severe judgments on the earth, and increasingly violent reactions of men to these judgments, John was shown the final events in the judging of the earth. Read about these below:

A. The Judgment of the Great Whore: Read Revelation 17:1-8

1. Who was next to be judged? Write the meanings of the following symbols:
 - a. A great whore (vs. 18) _____
 - b. Sitting on many waters (vs. 15) _____
 - c. Sitting on a scarlet beast (vs. 8) _____
 - d. The one who has seven heads (vs. 9-11) _____
 - e. The ten horns (vs. 12-14) _____
2. What terrible things has this woman done? Revelation 17:2, 6

3. Therefore, what was to happen to her? Revelation 18:8

4. Who would mourn at her destruction? Revelation 18:9, 11, 17a, 17b

5. Who would be glad? Revelation 18:20, 19:1, 2

6. What is the woman called in Revelation 18:2, 10?

7. What would take place after she was destroyed? Revelation 19:7, 8

B. The Last War: Read Revelation 19:11–20:3

1. Whom did John see after this? Revelation 19:11-16

2. What had He come to do? Revelation 19:11b, 15

3. Who came with Him? Revelation 19:14

4. Who opposed Him? Revelation 19:19

5. What happened as a result of this war?
 - a. to the beast and false prophet: Revelation 19:20

 - b. to the kings and armies of earth: Revelation 19:21

C. Condition After the War: Read Revelation 20:4-10

1. Who reigned over the earth after this war? Revelation 20:4, 6b

2. How did He have to rule? Revelation 19:15

3. How long did He reign? Revelation 20:4-7

4. This period is called "The Millennium" (1,000 years). What happened at the end of this time? Revelation 20:7

5. What did the people of earth do as a result? Revelation 20:8, 9a

6. What happened to them? Revelation 20:9b

7. What then happened to Satan? Revelation 20:10

8. Who then had to appear before God? Revelation 20:12a, 13a

9. According to what were they judged? Revelation 20:12b, 13b

10. What determined their final state? Revelation 20:15

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Was there any enemy whom Christ did not conquer?

2. If I insist on remaining Christ's enemy—fighting Him, and not allowing Him to rule over me—what must inevitably happen to me?

THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH

Revelation 21 – 22

After viewing the final judgments on earth, John was given a view of the final state of those who had received Christ as their Lord. Read about this below:

A. The Place: Read Revelation 21:1, 2

1. What two new things was John shown? Revelation 21:1a

2. Why was there a need for these new things? Revelation 21:1b, 20:11b

3. What was unusual about this new place? Revelation 21:1c

B. The People: Read Revelation 21:3-8

1. What is the most wonderful thing about this place? Revelation 21:3

2. Who else was there? Revelation 22:1b, 3b

3. Who was enjoying the blessings of this place? Revelation 21:7, 24, 27b

4. Who was not permitted to enter this place? Revelation 21:8, 27a

C. The City: Read Revelation 21:9-21

1. What did one of the angels who had had the seven vials offer to show John? Revelation 21:9

2. What did he actually show John after this? Revelation 21:10, 2

3. What was the over-all characteristic of this city? Revelation 21:11a

4. By what was it surrounded? Revelation 21:12a

5. By what could one enter this city? Revelation 21:12b-13, 21a

6. What twelve names were written on the:

- a. gates? Revelation 21:12b

- b. foundations of the wall? Revelation 21:14

7. What was the shape of the city? Revelation 21:16a, c

8. With what were the foundations of the city decorated? Revelation 21:19, 20

9. Of what was the wall made? Revelation 21:18a

10. Of what were the city and the streets made? Revelation 21:18b, 21b

D. Conditions Within the City: Read Revelation 21:22-22:7

1. Tell what things were not found in the city, and why:

a. Revelation 21:22

b. Revelation 21:23, 22:5b

c. Revelation 21:25b, 22:5a

d. Revelation 21:4

e. Revelation 22:3a

2. Name some things which were found in the city: Revelation 22:1, 2, 3b

E. The Last Message to John: Read Revelation 22:8-21

1. This is the end of John's visions. What was he told to do with the things he had written?
Revelation 22:10

2. What did Jesus say three times in His closing message to John? Revelation 22:7a, 12a, 20b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What is God's desire concerning heaven's blessings? (See Revelation 22:17, 14)

2. Whose fault will it be if any person does not arrive at this place?

SUMMARY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- A. Systems of Interpreting the Book of Revelation:** There are four main systems:
1. The Preterist View, which sees the visions in Revelation as representing events which took place in John's own day. Hence all prophecies in the book are said to have been fulfilled already.
 2. The Spiritual or Idealist View, which holds that the book is merely a poetic and prophetic representation of the constant conflict between the forces of good and evil that began with the fall of man in Genesis and will end at the end of time. Therefore no special fulfillment of its predictions is to be expected.
 3. The Historical View, which teaches that the book is a prophetic history of the major events from the time of John until the end of human history. Thus the book has been in fulfillment since the time of Christ, and will continue to be fulfilled until He comes again.
 4. The Futurist View, whose adherents believe that the book is concerned primarily with the future, and that most of it will be fulfilled at the end of time in connection with the second coming of Christ.
- B. Facts Which Seem Certain From the Book of Revelation:** The studies in this book have not been designed to present any one system of interpretation, but rather have been approached with the object of finding out from the book itself what may be discovered without any extensive knowledge of human history or systems of interpretation. From this type of study, several facts seem absolutely certain. Let these be the things which you remember as you conclude your studies in this book and in the Bible:
1. Jesus Christ **IS** coming back again:
Revelation 1:7 "Behold, he cometh with clouds..."
Revelation 22:7, 12, 20 "...Behold I come quickly..."
 2. God's wrath **IS** going to be poured out on earth:
Revelation 6:17 "For the great day of his wrath is come..."
Revelation 8:13 "...Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth..."
Revelation 16:1 "...Pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth..."
 3. Jesus Christ **IS** going to be victorious over Satan, and defeat him forever:
Revelation 20:10 "And the devil...was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone... and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."
 4. There **IS** going to be a resurrection/judging of all the dead:
Revelation 11:18 "Thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants..."
Revelation 20:4 "I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus...and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."
Revelation 20:12 "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God ...and the dead were judged..."
 5. All whose names are not written in the Book of Life **WILL** be sent to hell:
Revelation 20:15 "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

67 Bible Discoveries: New Testament Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
The Life of the Early Church: Paul through John's Revelation

Revelation 21:8 "But the...unbelieving...shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone which is the second death."

6. The Servants of God **WILL** reign with him for ever and ever:

Revelation 22:3, 5 "And His servants shall serve him...and they shall reign with Him for ever and ever."

C. The Book of Revelation as the conclusion of the Bible story: With this book, the story of the Bible is ended. God who in Genesis created man for Himself, in Revelation takes His redeemed creatures to live forever in heaven; while Satan, who in Genesis caused man to sin, in Revelation is punished for this deed by being assigned to eternal hell, together with all who have joined him in rebellion against God. What an awesome--yet marvelous--story!