

# THE BOOK OF ACTS

## ACTS 17:1-21 | LESSON SUMMARY

### Troublemakers

**ACTS 17:1**, "Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews." (ESV)

- Paul does "as was his custom" (17:2)
  - Three Sabbath days
  - Consistency and patience involved
    - Verse 3 says that Paul was "explaining and proving"
    - Paul was methodical and intentional
    - "...explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ."
- The word for "explain" literally means "opened": same word used by Luke to describe Jesus' teaching in Luke 24:45, "Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures."

**ACTS 17:4**, And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women." (ESV)



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- A tremendous response will be met with a tremendous riot
  - Occurred in Spring of 50 A.D.
  - Claudius had expelled Jews from Rome in 49 A.D., following riots between Jews and Christians themselves and take us out.” (ESV)
- The Jewish religious leaders incite a mob
  - They drag them before the πολιτάρχης
  - Luke’s reliability challenged as this term wasn’t found elsewhere in ancient literature
- Inscription on Vandar Arch, Thessaloniki

**ACTS 17:9**, “And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.” (ESV)

- They had been staying with Jason, so when they come for Paul and Silas and don’t find them, they grab Jason instead
  - Jason pays the fine because if this escalates any further, he knows the Roman legions will come
  - That would essentially be martial law

**ACTS 17:11**, “Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.” (ESV)



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- Paul and Silas escape and travel from Thessalonica to Berea
  - The mob follows
  - The group separates but is reunited in Athens, (Acts 17:15)

### Athens

**ACTS 17:16**, "Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols." (ESV)

- Athens = New audience
  - Epicurean + Stoic Philosophers
  - Athens is highly religious and intellectual: debates are what people live for here and Athens boasts a leading university.
    - "Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new." (17:21)

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** Zondervan, Holman Bible Atlas, Acts: Archeological Study Bible, John B. Miller, Convinced That God Had Called Us, C. Hemer, The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History

