

THE BOOK OF ACTS

ACTS 21:1-16 | LESSON SUMMARY

Agabus

ACTS 21:1, "And when we had parted from them and set sail, we came by a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara." (ESV)

- Paul is steadily making his way back to Jerusalem
 - Located in "Phoenicia"
 - Pass the island of Cyprus; Luke is giving specific directions
 - Tyre is a port city in Lebanon, north of Jerusalem
- Paul is staring death in the face as he makes his way to the Holy City, and he knows it
 - In fact, even his followers know it
 - "And having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for seven days. And through the Spirit they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem." (Acts 21:4, ESV)
 - Their response is the opposite of Paul they attempt to prevent him from going
- Grief can be selfish, and these disciples were no doubt in pain at the knowing they would lose their brother and friend, but Paul is willing to lay down his life for his call
 - Move from Tyre to Ptolemais and then on to Caesarea



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Phillip the Evangelist

ACTS 21:8, "On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him." (ESV)

- Paul is now in Israel, and he is close to his destination
- Phillip same man from Acts 8
- Four prophetic daughters
 - Luke does not record any prophecy from them, but ancient records indicate that Phillip and his daughters were instrumental in the Jewish-Christian movement
 - Their tomb is thought to be located in Hierapolis, Turkey

ACTS 21:10, "While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea." (ESV)

- There is a closeness to the group gathered here in Caesarea. Whereas when they stopped in Tyre they "sought out" disciples, here they have deep connections and stay "many days."



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- Agabus doesn't bring a happy prophecy: "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" (Acts 21:11, ESV)
 - Once again, we watch a very human response, but Paul sees to the other side
- Paul is moved by their grief: "Then Paul answered, 'What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.'" (Acts 21:13, ESV)
- Mnason of Cyprus
 - An early disciple = someone who associated with Jesus from the earliest years

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: F.F. Bruce, *The Book of Acts*, R. Kent Hughes, *The Church Afire*, *The Book of Acts*, Zondervan, Holman Bible Atlas, *Acts: Archeological Study Bible*

