

12/2/07

## Acts 20

Paul the apostle has come to the end of his third missionary journey at Ephesus and is about to begin his journey back toward Jerusalem.

He has spent three years at Ephesus and now after the riot had ceased he makes plans to depart.

### 20:1-6      The journey to Greece.

#### 20:1      The departure of Paul.

- 1) The decision came after the riot at Ephesus.
- 2) Paul summoned the disciples and embraced them.
- 3) Then Paul departed to Macedonia.
  - a) Macedonia and Achaia is included as Paul had already mentioned.
  - b) The possible places are Thessalonica, Berea and Philippi for sure.
  - c) The apostle planned on staying at Ephesus till Pentecost but now changed his plans. 1Cor. 16:8
  - d) The apostles was also taking up a collection for the poor saints at Jerusalem. Rom. 15:25-32, 1Cor. 16:1-4, 2Cor. 8-9
  - e) The record of Luke is not complete.

- 1)) Paul stayed at Troas. 2Cor. 2:12
- 2)) Paul met Titus at Macedonia. 2Cor. 2:12-7:16
- 3)) Paul visited Illyricum. Rom. 15:19
- 4)) Titus was sent to Corinth and probably took up the collection. 2Cor. 7:6

### 20:2-3      The ministry of Paul on his journey.

- 1) Paul knew the spiritual warfare so he went about encouraging the various churches. vs. 2a  
\* Those he had planted.
- 2) Paul told the Corinthians, “besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.” 2Cor. 11:28
- 3) Paul arrived at Greece. vs. 2b
- 4) Paul remained at Corinth for three months from where it is believed he wrote Romans. vs. 3a
- 5) Paul discovering a plot against his life, aborted his plans to go to Syria and returned through Macedonia as he told the Corinthians. vs. 3b-c  
\* 2Cor. 1:15-17

### 20:4-6      The traveling companions of Paul.

- 1) Sopater of Berea accompanied Paul to Asia. vs. 4  
\* Rom. 16:21

- 2) Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica. vs. 4  
\* Acts 19:29; 27:2; Philem. 24; Col. 4:10
- 3) Gaius of Derbe. vs. 4  
\* Rom. 16:23; 1Cor. 1:14
- 4) Timothy from Lystra. vs. 4  
\* Acts 16:3
- 5) Tychicus from Asia. vs. 4  
\* Eph. 6:21; Col. 4:7; 2Tim. 4:12; Tit. 3:12
- 6) Trophimus also from Asia. vs. 4  
\* Acts 21:29; 2Tim. 4:12
- 7) All these went ahead and waited for Paul and Luke at Troas. vs. 5  
\* Some believe Sopater accompanied Paul, while other think it refers to Luke, due to the fact that the “we” section begins again. vs. 6
- 8) The “we” narrative is introduced again showing that Dr. Luke now joined the group again after being at Philippi since they left. vs. 6a  
\* Acts 16:10-17; 20:5-15; 21:1-18; 27:1-28:16
- 9) The time was Passover for the Feast of Unleaven Bread is the seven days after Passover. vs. 6a
- 10) The trip was contrary to the wind for it took them only two days in the other direction. vs. 6b  
\* Acts 16:11

11) They stayed seven days at Troas. vs. 6c

### **20:7-12      The ministry at Troas.**

**20:7**      The church gathering.

- 1) The first day of the week was the meeting time for the early church to gather together. vs. 7a
- 2) They came together to brake bread, communion and love feasts. vs. 7b  
\* 1Cor. 11:23-26
  - a) The first day of the week is Sunday not Saturday for Paul makes this clear to the Corinthians. 1Cor. 16:1
  - b) Sunday to the Pagan was dedicated to the sun god but not the Christian!
  - c) **The** gathering of the saints was already being neglected by some as Hebrew points out. Heb. 10:25
- 3) Paul planed on departing the next day. vs. 7c-d
- 4) Paul spoke till midnight the word to them. vs. 7e  
\* The time being used is Roman time, Sunday night till midnight and break of day. vs. 11d

**20:8**      The conditions of the gathering.

- 1) The building consisted of multi-floors, they were in the third. vs. 9f
- 2) There were many lamps for light.

- 20:9** The calamity in the midst of the gathering.
- 1) A young man Eutychus, whose name means fortunate, was sitting in one of the windows.
  - 2) He was sinking into a deep sleep and was overcome by sleep as Paul continued speaking. vs. 9b-d
  - 3) He fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. vs. 9e
    - a) The heat and weariness of the day overtook him and he was not able to fight the sleep any longer,
    - b) He slumped into sleep and fell out the three story window to his death as Paul was speaking.

- 20:10** The miracle before the eyes of the gathering.
- 1) Paul went down, fell on him and embraced him. vs. 10a-c
    - \* The word "But" marks the sharp contrast between the calamity and the miracle about to take place.
  - 2) Paul calmed the crowd and told them not to trouble "thorubeo" themselves, to not make an uproar or be thrown into confusion, and assured the crowd that his life was in him. vs. 10d-e

- a) The text indicates he was dead and revived, not that he appeared only to be dead.
- b) Much like the miracle of reviving by Elijah and Elisha. 2Kings 4:33-35

**20:11-12** The gathering of the church continued.

- 1) Paul continued the meeting by having communion. vs. 11a-b
  - \* The association of the reviving of Eutychus and the memorial resurrection of Jesus by the communion is no coincidence.
- 2) Paul talked till daybreak. vs. 11c-d
  - a) The word for talked "homileo" means to converse with one.
  - b) We get our word homilies from it.
- 3) Paul then departed. vs. 11e
- 4) Eutychus was brought into the meeting alive and greatly comforted. vs. 12

### **20:13-16** The journey to Miletus.

**20:13-14** The details of the trip.

- 1) All sailed ahead to Assos. vs. 13a
- 2) They intended to pick Paul up there, as he ordered. vs. 13b-c
- 3) Paul traveled by foot to Assos. vs. 13d
  - a) The trip was 20 miles or so on boat and a bit shorter on foot.

- b) The reason why Paul went on foot is only conjecture but perhaps with all the trouble and plots against his life, he wanted to spend some time with the Lord.
- 4) Paul met them at Assos, boarded the ship and all sailed to Mitylene. vs. 14

**20:15** The log of the journey.

- 1) Notice that there are four days that are detailed in this voyage of thirty miles and yet at other times large distances and details are completely omitted.
- 2) They stopped every night, due to the danger of night travel.
- 3) Four ports are named.

**20:16** The intended purpose for coming to Miletus.

- 1) Paul decided to sail past Ephesus, for he did not want to delay time in Asia. vs. 16a-b
  - a) The phrase spend time “chronotribeo”, is made up of two words, “chrons” means time and “tribos” means to rub, to wear out by rubbing.
  - b) The idea being of wasting time.
- 2) He wanted to hurry to Jerusalem. vs. 16c
- 3) He wanted to be there by Pentecost. vs. 16d-e

- a) There was only seven weeks between Passover and Pentecost.
- b) Three weeks had already gone by since Passover at Philippi. vs. 6

**20:17-38** **The last meeting with the elders of Ephesus.**

**20:17-21** *Paul proclaims his integrity in his past ministry at Ephesus.*

**20:17** Paul summoned the elders.

- 1) Paul sent for the elders of the church of Ephesus.
  - a) Elders “presbuteros” were the leading body of men of age and wisdom, who looked over the church.
  - b) The phrase is synonymous with bishop “episkopos” but the former identifies the aged man, while the latter describes his function as overseer. 1Tim. 3:1-7
- 2) The trip for the elders was about 30 miles.

**20:18** The witness of Paul’s example.

- 1) Paul reminded them of their personal knowledge life conduct by the phrase “You know”. vs. 18a-c
- 2) Paul indicated the manner of his godly life among them. vs. 18d
  - a) The time of three years.

b) The common fellowship among them.

**20:19** The witness of Paul's service to God.

- 1) Serving the Lord as a bond slave. vs. 19a
- 2) With all humility. vs. 19b
- 3) With many tears and trial which came upon him by the Jews. vs. 19b

**20:20** The witness of Paul's service to the church.

- 1) He kept back nothing of the truth of God's word to help them live life but rather proclaimed it. vs. 20a-b  
\* The word is a nautical word used for pulling back the sail.
- 2) He taught them publicly in the synagogues. vs. 20c  
\* His love for Israel was passionate. Rom. 9-11
- 3) He taught them privately, from house to house. vs. 20c  
\* His stewardship of the word unswerving.

**20:21** The witness of Paul's service to the sinner.

- 1) He testified to the Jews and Greeks without partiality. vs. 21a-b
- 2) He proclaimed repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. vs. 21c

\* Repentance means a change of mind that results from a change of heart, abandoning a life of sin. 1Thess. 1:9;  
Rom. 1:16-17; 10:9-13

**20:22-24** *Paul proclaims his sufferings in his present ministry on way to Jerusalem.*

**20:22** Paul was being compelled by the Spirit.

- 1) He was being directed back to Jerusalem. vs. 22a-b
- 2) He was completely committed to God by faith, not reason, not knowing what awaits him. vs. 22c

**20:23** Paul was being prepared by the Spirit.

- 1) He was being witnessed to by the Holy Spirit in every city. vs. 23a
- 2) He was receiving prophecies that chains and tribulations await him. vs. 23b  
\* 2Cor. 4:7; 5:10; 6:4-10; 12:9; Phil. 1:19-26; 2:17; 3:8; Col. 1:24

**20:24** Paul was being made conscious of the cost.

- 1) Paul was not move by the difficulties, he had a God ward perspective.
- 2) Paul did not consider his life as something of some personal worth to him, apart from Christ.

- 3) Paul gives three reason.
- a) So that he may finish his race with joy. Phil. 3:12-14; 2Tim. 4:7
  - b) So that he may finish the ministry he received of the Lord Jesus.
  - c) To testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

**20:25-31** *Paul proclaims his relation in the future to the Ephesian church.*

**20:25** The ministry at Ephesus had ended.

- 1) He had been faithful to preach the kingdom of God among them.
- 2) He would not see his face again.

**20:26-27** Paul declares his faithfulness to the word.

- 1) He was telling them he was not responsible for the blood of any person by having faithfully warned all about sin. vs. 26  
\* Ezk. 18:13; 33:1-6
- 2) He had not held back any portion of Scripture from them but declared the entire council of God's word to them. vs. 27

**20:28-31** Paul proclaims warnings to the elders regarding the flock.

**20:28** Their accountability was to God.

- 1) They were to take heed to themselves first, due to the own sin nature present till the Lord took them home. vs. 28a  
\* 1Tim.4:16
- 2) They were to take heed to all the flock. vs. 28a
- 3) They were to be aware that the Holy Spirit had made them overseers. vs. 28b  
\* Acts 1:8
- 4) They were responsible to shepherd the church of God. vs. 28c  
\* To shepherd means to tend to, care for and feed. Jn. 21:15-17; Eph. 4:11; 1Pet. 5:2
- 5) They were to remember that the church belongs to God, for He purchased it with His own blood, the precious blood of Jesus Christ. vs. 28c  
\* 1Pet. 1:19

**20:29-31** The vulnerability of the flock.

- 1) The flock would be infiltrated from without by violent and ravenous wolves after he left, not sparing the flock. vs. 29  
\* 1Tim. 1:3; 2Tim. 1:15; Rev. 2:1-7
- 2) The flock would be deceived from within. vs. 30
  - a) From among themselves they would rise up and speak perverse things. vs. 30a-b

b) For the purpose of drawing disciples after themselves. vs. 30c

\* 1Tim 1:20; 2Tim. 2:17; 4:3

- 3) The apostle concludes by commanding them to watch “gregoreuo” means to give strict attention and be cautious, remembering that for three years he did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. vs. 31a

**20:32-35** *Paul commits them to God and his example*

**20:32** The confidence of Paul for the believer.

- 1) He commends them to God and the word of His grace. vs. 32a-c
- 2) The first reason being is that it is able to build them up in the faith. vs. 32d
- 3) The second reason, it is able to give them an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. vs. 32d

**20:33-35** The confidence of Paul for his financial integrity.

- 1) He coveted no ones material possessions, silver, gold or apparel. vs. 33
- 2) He worked with his own hands at tent making to provide for himself and those with him. vs. 34

\* 1Cor. 4:12; 9:11-15; 2Cor. 11:7-12; 12:13-16; Phil. 4:10-20; 1Thess. 2:6; 2Thess. 3:7-12

- 3) He gave them an example to follow after the model of Christ. vs. 35

a) To support the weak.

b) To remember the words of Christ, “It is more blessed to give than to receive”.

\* This is not found in the gospels, but spoken to Paul by the Lord.

**20:36-38** *Paul’s affectionate departure*

**20:36** Paul ended his sermon.

- 1) He finalized with the words of Jesus. vs. 36a
- 2) He knelt down and prayed with them all. vs. 36b

**20:37** The response of the elders.

- 1) They all wept much. vs. 37a
- 2) They fell on Paul’s neck and kissed him affectionately. vs. 37b

**20:38** The commentary on their weeping and send off of Paul.

- 1) They sorrowed most of all because they would see him no more. vs. 38a-b
- 2) He was accompanied to the ship. vs. 38c