

# BELIEF IN PHILIPPI

Summer 2022, Acts 16:16–40

July 31, 2022

*“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved –  
you and your household”  
Acts 16:30–31*

## **The bigger picture: Now God opens doors for the gospel**

<sup>16</sup> Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” <sup>18</sup> She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her.

<sup>19</sup> When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. <sup>20</sup> They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar <sup>21</sup> by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.”

<sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. <sup>23</sup> After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. <sup>24</sup> Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody’s chains came loose. <sup>27</sup> The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”

<sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

<sup>31</sup> They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” <sup>32</sup> Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. <sup>33</sup> At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. <sup>34</sup> The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.

<sup>35</sup> When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: “Release those men.” <sup>36</sup> The jailer told Paul, “The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace.”

<sup>37</sup> But Paul said to the officers: “They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out.”

<sup>38</sup> The officers reported this to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed. <sup>39</sup> They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison, requesting them to leave the city. <sup>40</sup> After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia’s house, where they met with the brothers and encouraged them. Then they left.

Acts 16:16-40

## **That's a lot about a house**

<sup>29</sup> *The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"*

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Acts 16

1. The passage begins and ends with the belief of an entire household – saved not from a sword but by the “word of the Lord”
2. Baptism is about who gets “citizenship” in this new Philippian community
3. This is the second “new believer” meal in Philippi – no wonder there was such joy!

## **Lessons from a Philippian jail**

- 1) Paul remembers the sanctifying power of his suffering and citizenship

<sup>17</sup> *Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. <sup>18</sup> For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body . . .*

Philippians 3

- 2) Ten years later, the Philippians were still rejoicing!

<sup>4</sup> *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

<sup>8</sup> *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

Philippians 4

## Resources for further studies in Acts

The Bible Project team has great stuff on Acts at <https://open.life.church/items/179224-poster-jpg>

Spurgeon has fewer sermons on Acts available than I would hope at

[http://www.romans45.org/spurgeon/index/r\\_ac.htm](http://www.romans45.org/spurgeon/index/r_ac.htm) . His sermons on Acts 16:30-34 are at <https://www.biblebb.com/files/spurgeon/1019.htm> and <https://www.biblebb.com/files/spurgeon/0293.htm>

Tim Keller has said much on the topic of mission. See “5 Practices” at <https://brave.is/5-practices-of-a-missional-church-tim-keller/> and <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/trevin-wax/gospel-culture-and-mission-an-interview-with-tim-keller/>

Kim Riddlebarger has an interesting article on Acts 15 at <https://www.kimriddlebarger.com/the-riddleblog/three-take-aways-from-the-jerusalem-council-acts-15>

Deffinbaugh has a helpful introduction at <https://bible.org/seriespage/unique-contribution-book-acts>  
His Acts series is at <https://bible.org/series/studies-book-acts> His sermons on this text are at <https://bible.org/seriespage/22-great-debates-acts-161-10> and <https://bible.org/seriespage/23-closer-look-open-and-closed-doors-acts-1611-40>

John Stott’s *The Spirit, The Church and the World: The Message of Acts* (IVP, 1990) and F. F. Bruce’s work: *New Testament History* (Doubleday, 1980) and *The Book of the Acts* (Eerdmans, 1984). For this passage, I also like Kistemaker’s commentary (Baker Book House, 1990).

Harry Boer, *That My House May Be Filled* (Eerdmans, 1957)



# The ACTS of Jesus & the SPIRIT

**LUKE ACTS**

- A UNIFIED, HIGH-VOLUME WORK
- FROM THE SAME AUTHOR: LUKE
- A TRAVELING CO-CHURCH WITH PHOENIX (1:1)

**TRADITIONAL NAME:** The Acts of the Apostles

**ACCURATE NAME:** The Acts of Jesus & the Spirit

**11** It produced my first account about all the things Jesus began to do & teach.

**IMPLICATION ACTS:** WHAT JESUS CONTINUED TO DO & TEACH

**LUKE-GOD'S KINGDOM CAME ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN THROUGH JESUS & HIS SPIRIT & HIS CHURCH**

**EXAMPLES OF FAITHFULNESS TO KING JESUS:**

- SHARING THE GOOD NEWS IN WORD & ACTION
- FORMING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES WHERE PEOPLE ARE EQUALS
- TRUSTING IN THE POWER & GUIDANCE OF THE SPIRIT

**1 INTRODUCTION**

**KINGDOM OF GOD:**

- JESUS RESTORES GOD'S KINGDOM OVER THE WORLD
- CALLED CORAL TO FOLLOW HIM
- ENTHUSIASTIC AS KING THROUGH HIS DEATH & RESURRECTION

**PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT:**

- FOR ALL PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE (ISAIAH 55:1, EZEKIEL 36, JOEL 2)
- NEW TEMPLE IN THE FUTURE (EZEKIEL 40, HEBREWS 8)

**TEMPLE IN THE PRESENT:**

- JESUS IS EXALTED AS KING OF THE WORLD
- JESUS IS ENTHUSIASTIC AS SON OF MAN

**8-12 JUDEA & SAMARIA**

**FROM DANIEL c. 67**

**PHILIP IN SAMARIA:** CONVERSION OF SAUL OF TARSUS

**PETER & CORNELIUS:** DON'T CALL PEOPLE UNCLE! (ACTS 10:25)

**THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH:** FIRST MULTI-ETHNIC CHURCH FIRST USE OF "CHRISTIANS" (11:26)

**21-28 PAUL'S WITNESS SPREADS TO ROME**

**21-22 PAUL ARRESTED IN JERUSALEM:** HE TRIES TO ARGUE OUR PEOPLE & OUR TEMPLES (ACTS 21:28)

**23-26 PAUL ON TRIAL BEFORE:** GOVERNOR FELIX, GOVERNOR FESTUS, KING AGRIPPA, THE SENATOR

**27 UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN ROME:** PAUL ANNOUNCES THE KINGDOM OF GOD, SHOWS THANKS ALL ABOUT THE LORD JESUS, THE MESSAGE, TOTALLY UNBROKEN (ACTS 28:30)

**2-7 IN JERUSALEM**

**2 TENTH COUST:** GODS GLORY = FILLING-TEMPLE IN THE PAST (1 CHRONICLES 15), IN THE FUTURE (EZEKIEL 40, HEBREWS 8)

**3-5 A TALE OF TWO TEMPLES:** A PRACTICE DESCRIBED IN THE TORAH (DEUTERONOMY 12:5) APPROVED BY HIS ANCESTORS

**LUKE'S POINT:** THE NEW TEMPLE ENCOUNTER GODS GLORY & HOLY SPIRIT

**JESUS FOLLOWERS SELL POSSESSIONS TO SUPPORT THE POOR**

**PETER HEALS & PREACHES IN THE TEMPLE - ARRESTED & TRIED**

**JESUS DISCIPLES GATHER DAILY IN THE TEMPLE COURTS & HOUSES**

**13-20 THE MISSIONARY JOURNEYS**

**ASIA MINOR:** 13-14 ASIA MINOR, 15-16 ASIA MINOR & GREECE, 18-20 ASIA MINOR & GREECE AGAIN

**THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL:** NO WAY! (ACTS 15:1-2)

**THE PARADOX OF THE EARLY CHURCH:** A REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT, BUT ESSENTIALLY DIVORCED FROM JEWRY & ISRAEL

**ACCUSATIONS OF REBELLION (ACTS 17, 18):** THE BREAD BAKER IS THE ONE WHO LOVES GOD & PEOPLE

**04-05 FIRST PERSECUTION:** STEPHEN

**THE CLASH OF CULTURES:** GALILEE

created by the Bible Project

| PAUL'S LETTERS AND MISSIONARY JOURNEYS |                                      |       |                     |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------|---------------------|---|--|
| YEAR A.D.                              | MAJOR EVENTS                         | ACTS  | PERIOD              | LETTERS   |  |
| 34                                     | Conversion, Damascus, Arabia         | 9     | 3 years - Arabia    |   |  |
| 37                                     | Jerusalem, Tarsus, Syria, Cilicia    |       |                     |   |  |
| 46-47                                  | Antioch, Jerusalem                   | 11    | 1 year - Antioch    |   |  |
| 48-49                                  | First Missionary Journey and Antioch | 13-14 |                     | Galatians   |  |
| 50                                     | Jerusalem Council and Antioch        | 15    |                     |   |  |
| 51-53                                  | Second Missionary Journey            | 16-18 | 18 months - Corinth | 1 Thessalonians<br>2 Thessalonians  |  |
| 53-54                                  | Antioch                              |       |                     |   |  |
| 54-57                                  | Third Missionary Journey             | 19-21 | 3 years - Ephesus   | 1 Corinthians<br>2 Corinthians<br>Romans  |  |
| 57                                     | Jerusalem Arrest                     | 22-23 |                     |   |  |
| 57-59                                  | Caesarea Prisoner                    | 24-26 | 2 years             |   |  |
| 59-60                                  | Journey to Rome                      | 27-28 |                     |   |  |
| 60-67 circa                            | Rome House Arrest                    | 28    | 5-7 years circa     | Ephesians<br>Colossians<br>Philemon<br>Philippians<br>1 Timothy<br>Titus<br>2 Timothy |  |