

## “A Jewish Uproar, A Roman Intervention, & A Erie Silence Before A Storm!”

Acts 21:27 - 40abc

Now when the **Seven Days** were almost ended, the **Jews from Asia (Diaspora)**, seeing **Him (Paul)** in the **Temple**, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on **Him**, crying out, “**Men of Israel, Help! This is the Man Who Teaches All Men Everywhere against the People (Jews), the Law (Torah), and this Place (Temple); and furthermore He (Paul) also brought Greeks into the Temple and has defiled this Holy Place.**” For **They (Jews from Asia)** had previously seen **Trophimus the Ephesian with Him (Paul)** in the **City (Jerusalem)**, **Whom (Trophimus) They** supposed that **Paul** had brought into the **Temple**. And all the **City was disturbed**; and the **People** ran together, seized Paul, and dragged Him out of the **Temple**; and immediately the doors were shut. Now as **They (All The Jews)** were seeking to kill **Him (Paul)**, news came to the **Commander (Tribune)** of the **(Roman) Garrison** that all **Jerusalem** was in an Uproar. **He (Tribune)** immediately took **Soldiers** and **Centurions**, and ran down to **Them (Jews)**. And when **They (Jews)** saw the **Commander (Tribune)** and the **Soldiers**, **They** stopped beating **Paul**. Then the **Commander (Tribune)** came near and took **Him (Paul)**, and commanded **Him** to be bound with two chains; and **He** asked **Who He** was and what **He** had done. And some among the **Multitude (of the Jews)** cried one thing and some another. So, when **He (Tribune)** could not ascertain the **Truth** because of the Tumult, **He** commanded **Him** to be taken into the **Barracks (Inside the Fortress of Antonia)**. When **He (Paul)** reached the **Stairs**, **He** had to be carried by the **Soldiers** because of the Violence of the Mob. For the **Multitude of the People (Jews)** followed after, crying out, “**Away with Him!**” Then as **Paul** was about to be led into the **Barracks (Inside the Fortress of Antonia)**, **He** said to the **Commander**, “**May I speak to You?**” **He (Tribune)** replied, “**Can You speak Greek? Are you not the Egyptian Who some time ago Stirred Up a Rebellion and led the four thousand assassins out into the wilderness?**” But **Paul** replied, “**I am a Jew from Tarsus, in Cilicia, a (Roman) Citizen of no small (mean) City; and I (Paul) implore You (Tribune), to Permit Me to Speak to the People (Jews).**” So, when **He (Commander)** had given **Him** permission, **Paul** stood on the stairs and motioned with **His Hand** to the **People (Jews)**. And then there was a **Great Silence**.

Acts 21:27-40 (NKJV)

### RECALL

The Time Frame Of This Encounter Is Late Spring 57 A.D.

... Now when the **Seven Days** were almost ended ... Acts 21:27a

Q

“What **Seven Days?**”

A

The Days Of Paul’s & The Other Four Men’s Purification & Vow Process

Then **Paul** took the **Men** (the **Four Men** Who took the **Vow**), and the next day, having been Purified with **Them**, entered the **Temple** to Announce the Expiration of the Days of Purification, at which Time an Offering should be made for **Each One of Them**. Acts 21:26

### NOTICE

The Sacred Rite of Purification Has **Three Days** Of **Community Gathering**

- 1) **Day 1** of 7: **1<sup>st</sup> Ceremonial Washing & Vow of Intent** Announcement
- 2) **Day 3** of 7: **2<sup>nd</sup> Ceremonial Washing**
- 3) **Day 7** of 7: **3<sup>rd</sup> Ceremonial Washing & Completion of the Vow** Announcement

Q

“What Did The **Jews From Asia** Do With This **Reverent & Sacred Time of Purification?**”

A

They Used It As An Opportunity To **Stir Up** All The **Jews** Against **Paul & His Companions**

For The **Teaching & Preaching** That Proclaimed **Jesus As Lord & Messiah** of All!  
The **Jews from Asia (Diaspora)**, seeing **Him (Paul)** in the **Temple**, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on **Him**, crying out, **“Men of Israel, Help! This is the Man Who Teaches All Men Everywhere against the People (Jews), the Law (Torah), and this Place (Temple); and furthermore He (Paul) also brought Greeks into the Temple and has defiled this Holy Place.”** Acts 21:27b-28

Q

**“What Did These Jews Use As A Pretense To Start The Riot & Uproar According to the Law?”**

A

The Entrance Of A **Gentile Believer** Into The **Inner Court of the Temple**;  
Instead of Remaining in the **Outer Court (Court of the Gentiles)**

... For **They (Jews from Asia)** had previously seen **Trophimus the Ephesian** with **Him (Paul)** in the **City (Jerusalem)**, **Whom (Trophimus) They** supposed that **Paul** had brought into the **Temple**. And all the **City was disturbed**; and the **People** ran together, seized Paul, and dragged Him out of the **Temple**; and immediately the doors were shut. Acts 21:29-30

RECALL

**Trophimus** Was A Former **Jewish Gentile Convert** From **Asia Minor** In **Ephesus**  
& Now He Was A **Christian Convert** & A Close **Companion of Paul**  
(See: **“Seven Companions”** Found In **Acts 20:4**)

Q

**“Why Did These Jews From Asia Minor (Ephesus) Harbor Such Animosity & Wrath Against Paul?”**

A

**Paul** Had Caused **5 # Great Commotions** In **Ephesus** Prior To This Day In The **Temple!**

**Let's Review Together!**

**1<sup>st</sup> Commotion:** Paul Forms A New Faith That Revivals All Belief Systems By Calling, Teaching, Mentoring, & Ordaining A New Set Of 12 Apostles / Disciples To Go To The Gentiles In Ephesus.

Acts 19:1-8

**2<sup>nd</sup> Commotion:** Paul Stops His Lectures In The Local Synagogue & Forms A Private Seminary In The Hall of Tyrannus.

Acts 19:9-10

**3<sup>rd</sup> Commotion:** Paul Performs Many Healing Miracles & Casts Out Demons Only In The Name Of Jesus Christ The Lord & Shows The Weakness Of Judaism & All Other False Religions.

Acts 19:11-18

**4<sup>th</sup> Commotion:** Paul Converts Many Of The Magicians & Sorcerers & They Voluntarily Destroy Their Tomes Containing Their Evil Hexes & Spells.

Acts 19:19-20

**5<sup>th</sup> Commotion (Great Commotion):** Paul Destroys The Worship Of Artemis – Diana & Overturns The Commerce & Trade Associated With Pilgrimages Made To Her Temple.

Acts 19:23-41

Q

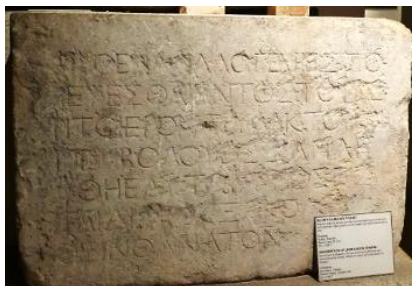
**“What Was The Penalty For Allowing Or Aiding  
A Gentile Believer Into The Inner Court of the Temple?”**

**A – Death Penalty**

As Seen On This Archeological Find On An Ancient Placard In Jerusalem

**“No foreigner is permitted to enter this holy place, under the threat of the penalty of death!”**

**Josephus' Antiquities 15.417**



## RECALL

### Jesus' Prophecy Concerning The Destruction of the Temple Now Set In Motion!

Then, as some spoke of the **Temple**, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations, **Jesus** said, "These things which you see, I tell you the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down!" Luke 21:5-6

### PAUL IS TRAPPED & SURROUNDED!

Paul Is Now Caught Between **Inner Court** Shut Doors & **Outer Court** Shut Doors, Surrounded By An **Angry Mob** That Begins To **Beat & Abuse Him!**

SEE: **Two Page Handout** In The **APPENDIX** Of Today's Notes - **TEMPLE MOUNT** – 1<sup>st</sup> Century A.D.

Q

"How Did **God** Intervene On Behalf Of **Paul** & **His Companions** Of the **Faith**?"

A

**God** Used The **Pagan Roman Army & Government!**

Now as **They (All The Jews)** were seeking to kill **Him (Paul)**, news came to the **Commander (Tribune)** of the **(Roman) Garrison** that all **Jerusalem** was in an **Uproar**. **He (Tribune)** immediately took **Soldiers** and **Centurions**, and ran down to **Them (Jews)**. And when **They (Jews)** saw the **Commander (Tribune)** and the **Soldiers**, **They** stopped beating **Paul**. Acts 21:31-32

Q

"How Were The **Romans** Able To Get To The **Mob** In The **Temple** Quickly Enough To Save **Paul's** Life?"

A

The Proximity of the **Fortress of Antonia** Attached To The **Temple** Precincts By **Two Flights of Stairs!**

SEE: **Two Page Handout** In The **APPENDIX** Of Today's Notes - **TEMPLE MOUNT** – 1<sup>st</sup> Century A.D.

Q

"What Did The **Roman Commander** Do To Try & Settle Down The **Uproar**?"

A

**He** Tried To Determine The **Facts & Truth** By Separating The Combatants! Then the **Commander (Tribune)** came near and took **Him (Paul)**, and commanded **Him** to be bound with two chains; and **He** asked **Who He** was and what **He** had done. And some among the **Multitude (of the Jews)** cried one thing and some another. Acts 21:33

Q

"What Did The **Commander** Do When The **Truth** Was Impossible To Ascertain?"

A

**He** Commanded The Combatants Be Separated By Removing **Paul** & Securing **His Person** In The **Army Barracks** With **His Garrison of Soldiers!**

So when **He (Tribune)** could not ascertain the **Truth** because of the **Tumult**, **He** commanded **Him** to be taken into the **Barracks** (Inside the **Fortress of Antonia**). When **He (Paul)** reached the stairs, **He** had to be carried by the **Soldiers** because of the **Violence of the Mob**. For the **Multitude of the People (Jews)** followed after, crying out, "Away with **Him!**" Acts 21:34-36

**NOTICE** the **IRONY** of the **Mob's Statement** – Considering Both **Jesus & Paul**

**JESUS** – 30 A.D.

But **They (Jews)** cried out, "Away with **Him**, Away with **Him! Crucify Him!**" **Pilate** said to **Them**, "Shall I Crucify **Your King**?" The **Chief Priests** answered, "**We have No King but Caesar!**" John 19:15

**PAUL** – 57 A.D.

For the **Multitude of the People (Jews)** followed after, crying out, "Away with **Him!**" Acts 21:36

Q

"What Did **Paul** Do In This Moment To Try & Save **His Brothers & People**?"

A

**He** Listened To The **Holy Spirit's Direction** & **His Human Reasoning**,

Instead Of Letting Fear Grip His Body, Mind, & Soul!

Then as Paul was about to be led into the Barracks (Inside the Fortress of Antonia), He said to the Commander, "May I speak to You?" He (Tribune) replied, "Can You speak Greek? Are you not the Egyptian Who some time ago Stirred Up a Rebellion and led the four thousand assassins out into the wilderness?" But Paul replied, "I am a Jew from Tarsus, in Cilicia, a (Roman) Citizen of no small (mean) City; and I (Paul) implore You (Tribune), to Permit Me to Speak to the People (Jews)." Acts 21:37-39

NOTICE!

The Roman Tribune Thought At First That Paul Was A Rebel / Zealot Who Had Organized A Rebellion & Uprising – 3 Years Earlier In 54 A.D. & Had Escaped Without Detection!

Q

"What Did God Do To Assist Paul & His Holy Desire To Save His People?"

A1

God's Spirit Placed The Thought In The Roman Commander's Mind To Allow Paul An Opportunity To Present The Gospel Of Truth With His Personal Testimony!

So when He (Commander) had given Him permission, Paul stood on the stairs and motioned with His Hand to the People (Jews) ... Acts 21:40ab

A2

God's Spirit Gave Paul The Same Authority To Teach Just Like Jesus Did!  
... And They (People) were astonished at His (Jesus') Teaching,  
For He Taught Them as One having Authority, and not as the Scribes ...

Mark 1:22 (Matthew 7:29)

And So An Erie Silence Descended Upon The Crowd,  
As God The Holy Spirit Was Moving Over Everyone!  
... And then there was a Great Silence ... Acts 21:40c

Q

"What Will Happen Next To Break This Erie Silence?"  
... To Be Continued Next Week ...

CQ?

"What Would I, What Would You Do, If We Were Faced With The Same Circumstances?"

CA!

Let Us Pray To Always Be Ready At A Moment's Notice As The Apostle Peter Instructed Us:  
"But even if You Should Suffer for Righteousness' Sake, You are Blessed. 'And Do Not Be Afraid of Their Threats, Nor Be Troubled.' But Sanctify the Lord God in Your Hearts, and Always be Ready to Give a Defense to Everyone Who Asks You a Reason for the HOPE that is in You, with Meekness and Fear. Having a Good Conscience, that when They Defame You as Evildoers, Those Who Revile Your Good Conduct in Christ May Be Ashamed. For it is Better, if it is the Will of God, to Suffer for Doing Good than for Doing Evil!" 1st Peter 3:14-17