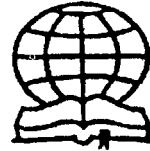


Christadelphian Bible Mission

The Acts of the Apostles

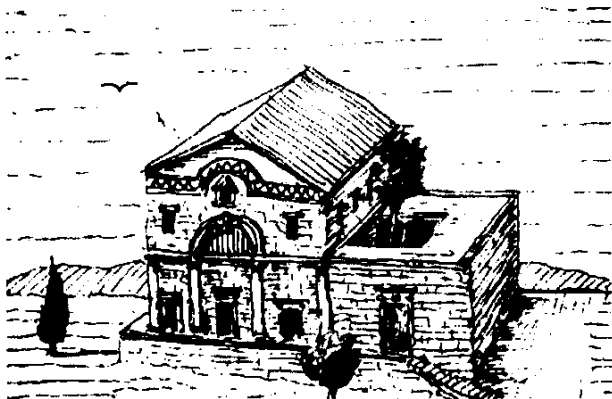


Please begin by reading - Acts Chapter 26

Paul said he had been a strict Pharisee. The Pharisees believed in the promises made to Abraham and others the promise of a Messiah, and the hope of resurrection. This was what Paul had preached, so why were the Jews now accusing him? They believed these things but refused to accept that JESUS was the fulfilment of these promises, and would not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead.

Questions - Acts Chapter 26

- Q26.1 Paul himself had once thought he should work against Jesus. What had he done?
- Paul told King Agrippa how Jesus had stopped him. This is found in Acts chapter 9 but here, from verse 14 onward, he adds more of what Jesus said.
- Q26.2 Copy and complete. (In some cases you will need more than one word).
- Jesus said that Paul had been persecuting_____. Jesus had stopped him because he was going to make Paul a_____ of what he had seen and also of what_____.
- Jesus said he would_____ Paul from the people and that he was being sent to open the eyes of the_____ to show them the light of the gospel and turn them from idols and false worship (the power of satan).
- They could receive_____ and inheritance (a place) with the Jews who were set apart (sanctified) by_____.
- Q26.3 What is meant by "do works meet for repentance" (verse 20)?
- Q26.4 What three things did Paul say he had been able to preach about Christ by using the Old Testament? (see verse 23).
- Q26.5 What did King Agrippa and the others decide about Paul?
- Q26.6 What had Paul already been told by the Lord Jesus Christ in Acts chapter 23:11?



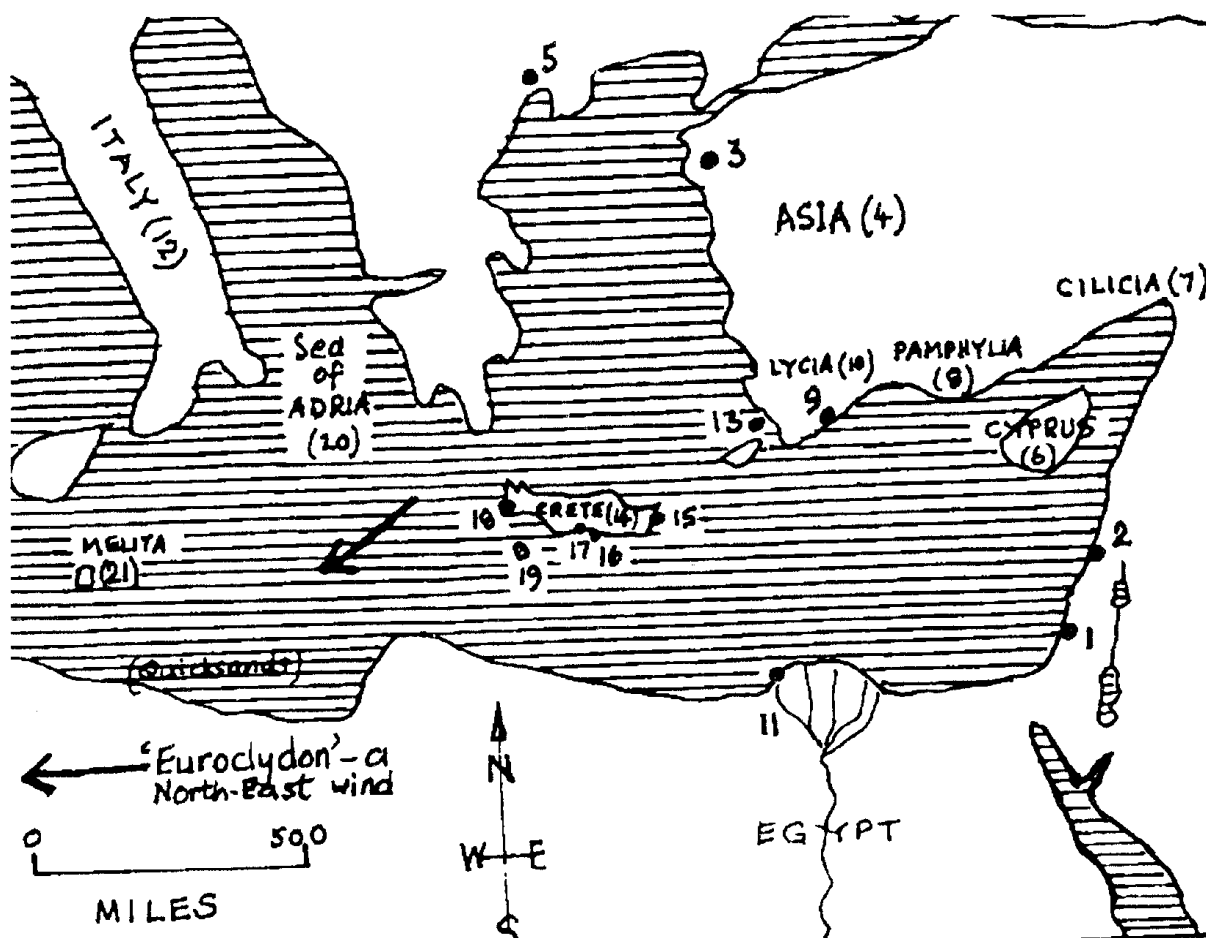
**A synagogue - like those visited by Paul
(see also Acts 26:11)**

Some Points to Note

1. In verse 10 Paul calls the faithful Christians that he had persecuted "saints". All who try to follow Christ are saints (see 2 Corinthians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1 and Romans 15:25,26). The Roman Catholic Church decides whether good people who have died should be called 'saint', but the Bible uses the word 'saint' to describe all true baptised believers, living or dead. It means 'set apart' or 'separate' and this is what all believers have to do; they have to separate themselves from the evil things of the world.

2. (See verse 18). Before we accept Christ we are in darkness. After accepting him we try to walk in the light of his teaching.
3. Paul said (in verse 22): "NONE OTHER things than the prophets and Moses said would happen". When he witnessed he did not add his own thoughts or feelings or anyone else's ideas to what the Scriptures had already said. We must follow his example and study the Bible for ourselves and not just listen to what others tell us about the Bible.

Please begin by reading - Acts Chapter 27



Places mentioned in Acts 27

1 Caesarea	8 Pamphylia	15 Salmone
2 Sidon	9 Myra	16 The Fair Havens
3 Adramyttium	10 Lycia	17 Lasea
4 Asia	11 Alexandria	18 Phenice
5 Thessalonica	12 Italy	19 Claudia
6 Cyprus	13 Cnidus	20 Adria
7 Cilicia	14 Crete	21 Melita (ch. 28)

Having appealed to Caesar, Paul had to travel to Rome for his trial there. Paul was not alone, his brother in Christ, Aristarchus, was with him. In Colossians 4:10 (which was written from Rome), Paul described Aristarchus as a fellow prisoner. Luke might also have been travelling with him.

Questions - Acts Chapter 27

Although Paul was a prisoner, Julius, the centurion, treated him kindly, as verse 3 shows. Read through this chapter again to find ways in which God had helped Paul through this very difficult time.

Q27.1 With God's help, what two things did Paul predict (tell in advance) which came true ?

Paul's belief in his God, together with his words which came true, would have impressed those he travelled with. Verse 27 shows us that this was not a one-day storm! Gradually they would have to realise that Paul's God was the true and living God.

Q27.2 What did Paul do before he ate his bread ?

Q27.3 Whose example did he follow ? (Matthew 15:36).

Verse 37 says there were 276 souls in the ship.

Q27.4 What does the word 'soul' mean?

Please begin by reading - Acts Chapter 28

The island to which they escaped is today known as Malta. Paul had survived the ship-wreck and then he showed he could survive the poisonous snake on his hand and that he could heal people. These are two of the signs of Mark 16 :17,18 which only apply to those who have the Holy Spirit gifts. Today there are people who claim that they have these gifts, but they will not dare to pick up poisonous snakes, and their healing power is very limited. Paul never failed in his healing (verse 9) since this was God's power at work. God Himself still performs miracles today, and controls events in the world, and in the lives of believers; but as shown in the section on Acts chapter 8, this power is not available today for men to use.

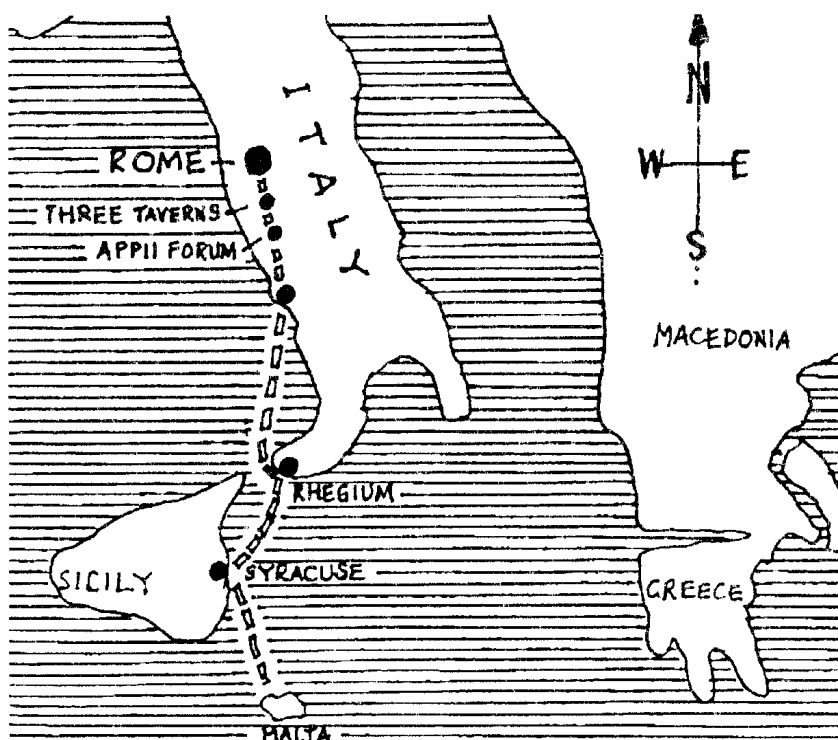
1 Corinthians chapter 13 is about these gifts, and about Christian love. It says that unless a believer has this Christian love (charity) the gifts are useless. But it also says (verse 8):

"Whether there be prophecies (that is the Holy Spirit gift of prophecy) they shall fail" (or "be done away" in other versions).

"Whether there be tongues (gift of tongues) they shall cease."

"Whether there be knowledge (gift of knowledge) it shall vanish away

So Paul, when writing to the church at Corinth, told them there would be a time when these Spirit gifts would finish. The Spirit gifts were to help the first century believers to preach, to finish writing the Scriptures, and to help them set up the Christian church.



The last part of Paul's journey to Rome (Acts 28)

Paul was allowed to stay seven days with the brethren at Puteoli, then some brethren met him at Appii forum and others at The Three Taverns. It was, and still is, important for baptised believers to have FELLOWSHIP together. This involves breaking bread, praying and singing praises together and reading and discussing the Scriptures. In this way believers can encourage each other. So Paul was able to "thank God and take courage" after meeting his brethren in Christ. True fellowship is not only with brothers and sisters of the same faith but is fellowship with God Himself and with His Son, so it is very precious (See I John 1:3).

At Rome Paul was allowed to live in his own house and to have many visitors. He was still a prisoner but he was able to continue preaching. The Jews came to him and he explained to them that he had done nothing wrong, and then taught them about the Kingdom of God and about Jesus.

Again many of the Jews would not believe. The Jews at Jerusalem had rejected Jesus and Paul, and now the Jews at Rome did not want God's salvation.

Questions - Acts Chapter 28

Q28.1 Which prophet had said the Jews would not hear?

Q28.2 Which people would hear?

Verses 23 and 31 say Paul preached about the Kingdom of God and about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Q28.3 What do you know about:

THE KINGDOM OF GOD? (Lessons 4,9 and 11 of the postal course may help you, together with Psalm 72).

- a. Where will it be?
- b. When will it start?
- c. How big will it be?
- d. Who will be King?
- e. Where will he reign from?
- f. Over whom will he reign?
- g. In what ways will the Kingdom be different from the world today?

Q28.4 What do you know about:

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST? (Lessons 16-19 may help you).

- a. Who was his Father?
- b. Who was his mother.
- c. In which country did he live?
- d. Are God and Jesus equal?
- e. Did Jesus exist as a person before he was born?
- f. Was he christened or completely immersed in water?
- g. What was he given at his baptism?
- h. What does the name "Jesus" mean?
- i. What does "Christ" mean?
- j. Why did Jesus die? (Give at least 2 reasons).
- k. Why did God raise him from the dead?
- l. Where is the Lord Jesus Christ now?
- m. What is the Lord Jesus doing now?
- n. What will he do when he returns to the earth? (At least 3 things)

In verse 20 Paul said: "..... for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain".

In chapter 26:6 he said: "And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God to our fathers."

The "hope of Israel" and the "hope of the promise made of God to our fathers" are the same thing. God made promises to Abraham which He repeated to Isaac and Jacob. These are found in the book of Genesis. Look up each reference and write down what God promised in each. (You will find some repeated).

Q28.5 (Please copy out this table and return to your tutor for marking.)

References (all in Genesis)	What did God promise Abraham?
12: 1-3	
12: 7	
13: 14-17	
15: 1-7	
15: 18	
17: 4-8	
17: 19	
22: 15-18	
24: 7	

Galatians chapter 3:16 says that there was a particular "seed" (or descendant) of Abraham that was being referred to in Genesis-the Lord Jesus Christ.

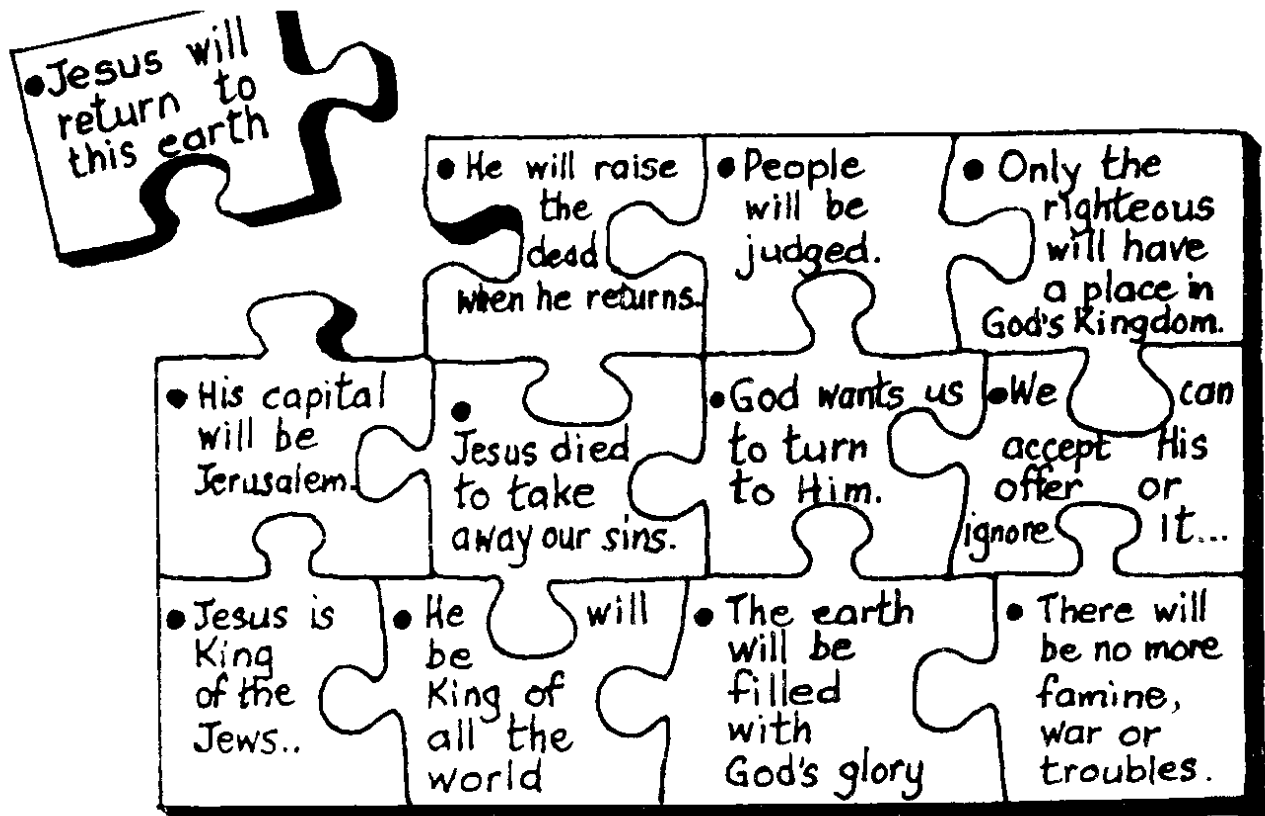
So, for example, in Genesis 22:18 where it says: "In thy seed shall all nations of the earth be blessed", it is because of the work of Jesus that all nations can be blessed. Look at Galatians 3:8: the gospel (good news) was preached to Abraham. It was that "In you (Abraham) shall all nations be blessed".

Galatians 3:14 shows that this blessing of Abraham can come on the Gentiles (all nations) through the Lord Jesus Christ. How? Galatians 3:27-29 shows that if we have been baptised into the death of Jesus we (people from all nations) can become one in Christ Jesus and therefore be counted as Abraham's descendants and share in the blessings given him. This is why baptism is so important. One of the most wonderful blessings we can receive is to have our sins forgiven. This can only be done through baptism. The Jews were given this opportunity first (see Acts 3:25,26) but most of them were not interested and rejected it. In the book of the Acts of the Apostles we have seen how this blessing was extended to all peoples. We too can share in it by having our sins removed by baptism into the death of Jesus. We can then rise to a new life of service to God, with all the blessings this brings.

(Read Romans chapter 6 and Colossians 2:12-14 and Colossians 3:1-17)

Q28.6 (a) What action must you take before you can be blessed with Abraham?

(b) Having done this, in what ways will you be blessed?



We hope this study of the Acts of the Apostles has been interesting and has helped your understanding of the Bible.

If you have any questions about the Bible please write and ask you tutor, who will be pleased to try and answer them.

May God bless you as you continue your study of His word.

Please return your answers to:

Please include your reference number which is: