

GREAT EVENTS OF THE BIBLE --
PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY!

**(SLIDE #1) "GREAT EVENTS OF
THE BIBLE #85 -- PAUL'S THIRD
MISSIONARY JOURNEY!"**

Introduction:

A. Text: Ac. 18:23-21:16

B. In Our Past Studies We Have Seen:

1. Paul and Barnabas make the First Missionary Journey to Cyprus and then into Asia Minor. During that trip, they followed the Lord's advice and began to focus upon the Gentiles.
2. Returning to Antioch, brethren rejoiced; however Jewish members of the Jerusalem congregation came and began to tell the Gentiles that they were not truly saved. The elders at Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas to inform the Apostles and elders of their work and to tell them to stop their members from causing trouble in the congregation at Antioch and from making Gentile Christians feel that they were not saved.
3. Upon returning to Antioch, Paul and Barnabas discussed making a return trip to congregations established on the First Missionary Journey. However, because of a disagreement about taking John Mark, they parted ways. Barnabas took John Mark and went to Cyprus. Paul took Silas, a member of the Jerusalem congregation, who had gone with them to Antioch to attest to the letter from James and the Apostles acknowledging that they accepted the Gentiles as Christians and tried to squelch the trouble the Jewish members of the Jerusalem congregation had been causing in Antioch.
4. Then Paul took Silas and began a Second Missionary Journey that began at Paul's hometown of Tarsus, went into Cilicia to the congregations established on the First Missionary Journey, and then planned to go to Asia. However, God had a different plan and sent them into Europe -- to Macedonia and Greece.
5. **(Slide #2)** Interestingly the record of the Second Missionary Journey ends at Ac. 18:22; the record of the Third Missionary Journey begins in the next verse, Ac. 18:23. It continues through Ac. 21:16.

C. **Main Route: Turkey, Greece, Lebanon, Israel -- (Slide #4) Map Of Third Missionary Journey**

D. Approximate Distance Of Travel: About 2700 Miles

E. Length Of Journey: 4-5 Years -- From A.D. 54-58.

I. (Slide #3) From Antioch Through Galatia And Phrygia. 18:23

A. (Slide #4) MAP -- (►) After spending some time In Antioch, Paul Was Eager To Begin His Third Missionary Journey.

B. He Traveled Through (►) Galatia And (►) Phrygia. 18:23 [This may have included visits to Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, Antioch of Pisidia in Galatia and Laodicea, Colossae, and Hierapolis in Phrygia.]

II. (Slide #5) Events At Ephesus! (Slide #6) MAP -- (►) Ephesus.

A. (Slide #7) Apollos Teaches Error At Ephesus. 18:24-28

1. (Slide #8) Apollos, The Mighty But Confused Preacher.

- a. He was a Jew who was born in Alexandria, Egypt. 24
 1. That is 314 miles from Jerusalem -- keep that in mind as we think about later events!
 2. Raised in this great city of learning, Apollos was greatly influenced by Philo who attempted to syncretize the teaching of the Old Testament and the teaching of Plato.
- b. He was an extremely talented speaker -- he was eloquent! 24
 1. He was educated, skilled in speech, influential and powerful!
 2. He had a great command of language; he was very influential!
- c. He had a mighty grasp of the Scriptures [his understanding of the Old Testament Law of Moses]. 25
 1. He was driven to excel in knowledge of Scripture -- the O.T.
 2. He was "fervent in spirit" -- full of zeal.
 3. "Instructed in the way of the Lord" -- he knew the Old Testament Scriptures; he knew a Messiah was coming; he did not know that Jesus Christ was THE Messiah!
- d. What is interesting -- he had the same problem that most Jews had and that Paul had -- both had been taught wrong about Jesus in their youth; they saw Jesus as just an imposter, not the Divine Being who He really is!
 1. Paul was taught that Jesus was an imposter Messiah!
 2. When you examine Philo's philosophy, Apollos was taught that Jesus was something between God and man; but he was NOT the promised Messiah of the O.T.

2. Apollos Came To Ephesus To Preach.
 - a. This was between the time that Paul was there at the end of the Second Missionary Journey, Ac. 18:19-21, and when Paul arrived there on the Third Missionary Journey. Ac. 19:1
 - b. His teaching:
 1. He was teaching from the Scriptures [the Old Testament Scriptures foretelling a coming Messiah!]
 2. He knew some things about Christ; however, he only knew the baptism of John! (That baptism was TOTALLY INVALID at this time!)
 3. What is STAGGERING to me is that this was about A.D. 51 -- 18 years AFTER; yet, he only knew about the baptism of John! This was a baptism in view of a coming Messiah who has not yet been identified!!!!
 - a. However, remember that we are what we have been taught!
 - b. The same was true of Saul of Tarsus who became the Apostle Paul.
3. **(Slide #9)** When Aquila and Priscilla heard Apollos teaching at the synagogue, they took him aside and explained to him the ways of God more perfectly.
 - a. They were the Jewish tentmakers who had come to Ephesus with Paul near the end of the Second Missionary Journey. Ac. 18:19
 - b. They admired his boldness.
 - c. They realized that if he had the right kind of heart, he would be open to Truth.
 - d. They realized that he could be a great benefit to the cause of Christ.
 - e. They taught him; he readily received their guidance and was very productive for the Lord's cause.
 - f. Aquila and Priscilla did not condone the error; they took him aside and taught him the way of God more accurately.
 - g. Thank God that they had BARNABAS hearts; NOT DIOTROPHES hearts! Barnabas would have kindly corrected, encouraged, and inspired; Diotrophes would have criticized, discouraged, and destroyed this young man's initiative!
4. Apollos had a humble, godly, holy, and penitent heart!
 - a. He did not want to teach error!
 - b. He longed to teach Heaven's Truths!
 - c. Corrected, he was quickly accepting of the Truth of who Jesus is and was eager to teach it! This reminds you so much of the Apostle Paul!

B. When Apollos Left Ephesus And Went To Corinth, The Ephesian Brethren Wrote A Letter Commending Him As Having Become A Faithful Minister Of The Gospel!

1. Ac. 18:27,28 “And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; ²⁸for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.”
2. This all occurred before Paul arrived in Ephesus.
 - a. In the meantime, Apollos had gone to Achaia, specifically to Corinth!
 - b. Afterward, Paul came to Ephesus.
3. In reading I Corinthians, you see that the Corinthian Christians had great respect for this godly, powerful preacher!

C. (Slide #10) **Paul’s Work At Ephesus. 19:1-20:1**

1. **Paul Baptized Those Who Had Previously Been Taught John’s Baptism By Apollos. 19:1-7**

- a. Ephesus was 225 miles from Antioch, the commercial center of Asia Minor, and the home of the Temple of Diana.
- b. When Paul arrived, he met, taught, and baptized the 12 men who had been taught the baptism of John by Apollos.
 1. Apollos had already left for Corinth when Paul arrived.
 2. Paul’s question to these men: “Believing, did you receive the Holy Spirit?” “After having believed, did you receive the Holy Spirit?”
 - a. His question was, “Did you receive supernatural gifts after you were baptized?”
 - b. Compare this with Ac. 2:38 “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”
 - c. Paul was EAGER to pass on the nine supernatural gifts.
 - d. He wanted to know if these disciples had received miraculous gifts after their conversion.
 3. Their response: “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.” Their response, “We don’t know what you are talking about!”
 4. Realizing that these men knew NOTHING about the connection of baptism and supernatural gifts, Paul immediately asked: “Into what then were you baptized?”
 - a. He immediately knew something was wrong.
 - b. He wanted to know what they understood.
 - c. Their response: “So they said, ‘Into John’s baptism.’” (That is what Apollos knew and taught!)

d. (Slide #11)

(►) John's Baptism:

1. (►) Ordained by God.
Mt. 21:25-27
2. Water. Jn. 3:23
3. Immersion
4. Preceded By
Repentance. Mk. 1:4
5. For the Remission of
Sins. Mk. 1:4
6. In View of a
COMING Messiah!
Mk. 1:7
7. No Supernatural Gifts Accompanied it.
8. Ended With
Proclamation Of
Baptism That The
Messiah Commanded.

JESUS BAPTISM:

1. (►) Ordained by God.
2. Water. Ac. 8:36;
10:47-48; I Pet.
3:20,21
3. Immersion. Rom. 6:4
4. Preceded by
Repentance. Ac. 2:38
5. For the Remission of
Sins. Ac. 2:38
6. In View of an
ALREADY COME
Messiah!
7. Validated by
Accompanying
Supernatural Gifts!
Mk. 1:8; Ac. 2:38,39
8. Began at Pentecost of
A.D. 33!

5. Realizing that their baptism was not acceptable to God, these 12 men were immediately baptized in the name of Jesus!
 - a. Obviously these were good-hearted men!
 - b. Obviously they wanted to be saved, to be the children of God!
 - c. Observation: **an improper purpose for baptism makes it invalid in God's sight!**
6. After these men were baptized, Paul, an Apostle, laid his hands upon them that they might receive supernatural gifts!
 - a. Only Apostles could pass them on, Ac. 8:17,18!
 - b. Immediately these 12 men received supernatural gifts; they began to speak in foreign languages and to prophesy!
- c. (Slide #12) Important question and observation: Does this event suggest that ALL those baptized of John's baptism had to be re-baptized by the baptism of Jesus? This event IN NO WAY suggests that all those baptized of John's baptism had to be re-baptized into the baptism of Jesus Christ!
 1. Paul explained that John's baptism was a baptism of repentance that pointed to and prepared the Jews for the imminent coming of the Messiah in whom they believed.
 2. It lasted until Christ died on the Cross.
 3. The events of Acts 19 are about A.D. 51 or later -- at least 18 years AFTER Pentecost and after John's baptism had ceased!

4. This event in NO WAY suggests that all people who were baptized of John's baptism had to be re-baptized into the baptism of Christ!!!!!!
 - a. Many who read this passage in Ac. 19 immediately assume that every Jew baptized of John's baptism had to be re-baptized.
 - b. However, this is improper logic.
 - c. WHY? The baptism of John was valid ONLY before Jesus' Law came into effect.
 - d. Those baptized of John's baptism were told to believe in the One who would come after John and who was greater than John.
 - e. There is NO RECORD of ANY of those who had been previously baptized into John's baptism being re-baptized at Pentecost or thereafter.
 - f. The events of Ac. 19 are a TOTALLY DIFFERENT situation! 21 years AFTER John's baptism had ended, Apollos is still teaching people to be baptized into a baptism that looked forward for a COMING Messiah! To do so was to TOTALLY MISS the TRUE Messiah -- Jesus of Nazareth!!!
- d. Here is concrete evidence that "receiving the Holy Spirit" referred to the reception of miraculous gifts.
 1. These 12 men received those gifts AFTER being baptized into Christ.
 2. They received them by the hands of an Apostle -- Paul. See also Ac. 8:17,18
 3. This phrase refers to reception of miraculous gifts!
2. **Paul taught in the synagogue in Ephesus for three months; then he taught in the School of Tyrannus for the next two years. 19:8-10**
 - a. While Paul was here in Ephesus that he wrote **I CORINTHIANS!**
 - b. He was teaching Jesus at every opportunity possible!
3. **(Slide #13) He performed many supernatural acts while in Ephesus. 19:11-18**
 - a. One example -- people brought handkerchiefs or aprons for Paul to touch; they took the handkerchiefs back to the sick and demon possessed; they were immediately healed!
 - b. Interestingly, some pretenders, wandering Jews and the 7 sons of the chief priest Sceva, pretenders, decided THEY would cast out demons in the name of Jesus. The demon declared: "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" The man who had the evil spirit attacked them, overpowered them, and they fled naked out of the house!
 - c. The results of this event:
 1. People all over Ephesus were afraid.
 2. The name of the Jesus was magnified.
 3. Many believed in Jesus.

4. **(Slide #14) The Book Burning In Ephesus! 19:19,20**
 - a. Many who practiced sorcery burned their books of magic.
 - b. It is such an awesome event because of the monetary value of what they destroyed.
 - c. The impact: the actions of these new believers was a MIGHTY testimony to their faith and to the Gospel; it prompted others to believe too. The Word of God increased and grew in strength! 19:20

5. **An Angry Mob Of Idolaters Violently Turned Against Paul! Ac. 19:21-20:1**
 - a. Because there were so many interested people, Paul remained in Ephesus instead of going to Jerusalem and then to Rome.
 - b. About the time of Pentecost, May, **the Ephesians had a feast to their goddess, Artemis or Diana. 19:23-41**
 1. **(Slide #15)** Demetrius, a silversmith, called a meeting of the silver craftsmen (this was a union meeting to oppose Paul).
 - a. He accused Paul of hurting their income.
 - b. He accused Paul's preaching of bringing dishonor to the Temple of Diana.
 2. **(Slide #16)** The silversmith union was enraged and cried out "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"
 3. The whole town turned into a frenzied mob!
 4. Paul wanted to address the people; his brethren would not allow that.
 5. The mob seized Gaius and Aristarchus, two of Paul's companions. When Alexander, a Jew, tried to defend them, the mob went berserk and for two hours shouted at the top of their lungs, "**Great** is Diana of the Ephesians!" 34
 - c. A town clerk quieted the crowd by asserting that they could be in trouble with Rome. 35-41
 - d. After this, Paul left for Macedonia. 20:1

III. **(Slide #17) Paul's Efforts In Macedonia. Ac. 20:2**

A. **(Slide #18) MAP.**

B. **(►) He Went Through This Region Encouraging The Christians.**

C. **What Are Cities Of Macedonia?**

1. Neapolis
2. Philippi
3. Amphipolis
4. Apollonia
5. Thessalonica
6. Berea

D. While In Macedonia, Paul Wrote **II CORINTHIANS**.

IV. (Slide #19) Paul's Efforts In Greece! Ac. 20:2,3

A. Greece Was About 320 Miles From Bearea. **(Slide #20)** This Was The Province Of (►) Achaia.

B. What are cities of Greece:

1. Athens
2. Corinth
3. Cenchrea

C. Paul Was Here For 3 Months.

1. Paul was coming there to gather a contribution that he would take back to Judea. I Cor. 16:1-5.
2. While in Greece (likely in Corinth), Paul wrote two books of the Bible:
 - a. **GALATIANS**
 - b. **ROMANS**
3. Paul's thoughts and plans:
 - a. He desired to go to Spain. Rom. 15:24
 - b. Macedonian and Achaian brethren wanted to help the poor saints in Jerusalem. 15:26
 - c. After taking this contribution to Jerusalem, Paul planned to go to Spain. 15:28
 - d. He begged them to pray for him that he might be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, that his service would be acceptable to the brethren in Jerusalem, and that he might come to the brethren in Rome. 15:31,32
4. Paul was about to get a ship to go back to Antioch (Syria); however, because of a plot by some Jews to set an ambush and attack him, Paul went by land north back to Macedonia.

V. (Slide #21) Further Efforts In Macedonia. Ac. 20:4-6

A. **(Slide #22)** Paul's Co-Workers Went Ahead Of Him To Asia And Waited In Troas; He Went To (►) Philippi.

B. Paul And Luke Then Traveled By Ship To Troas.

VI. (Slide #23) Work In Troas. Ac. 20:6-12

A. (Slide #24) Map. (►) Troas Was About 455 Miles From Philippi.

B. Paul Remained A Week In Troas.

1. They arrived in Troas on Monday.
2. Paul preached to the brethren on that First Day of the Week until midnight. During that sermon, Eutychus fell from the second floor window and died; Paul went outside and raised him from the dead.
3. The next morning Paul and his entourage left Troas.

VII.(Slide #25) Travels From Troas To Jerusalem. 20:13-21:17

A. (Slide #26) From Troas To Miletus. 20:13-15

1. They sailed to Assos where they met Paul left Troas and traveled by land to Assos; his companions sailed to Assos and met him there.
2. Then they sailed to Mitylene, the next day to Chios, and the following day they arrived at Samos. They stayed at Trogyllium.
3. And the next day (the fourth day) they came to (►) Miletus.

B. (Slide #27) Meeting With The Elders Of Ephesus At Miletus. 20:16-38

1. **Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus because he was eager to get to Jerusalem in time for Pentecost. 20:16**
2. **From Miletus Paul summoned the elders of Ephesus. 20:17-38**
 - a. He reminded them of the life he lived before them since the first day he came to Asia. They knew of his humility; they knew of the Jews plots that brought tears and troubles to Paul's life. 20:18-19
 - b. He reminded them of his loyalty to God's Word as He preached to them. He taught Jews and Gentiles alike about repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. 20:20,21
 - c. He informed them of his dogged intention to go to Jerusalem and of his uncertainty about what would happen when he arrived there. The Holy Spirit had told him that he would face opposition and persecution in every city where he went. None of these things deterred him; he was not afraid to die. He felt his physical life was SO INSIGNIFICANT in comparison to the great task given to him by God. He was overjoyed that he could preach the Gospel; he seemed certain that he would not be able to come back to Ephesus again. 20:22-25
 - d. He knew that God was pleased with him for preaching the whole counsel of God. He had a clear conscience that God was pleased with his work among the Ephesians. 20:26,27

- e. He urged them to have concern for their own relationship with God and the relationship of the members with God as well. They are overseers and shepherds who feed the brethren. He warned them to be cautious of false teachers “savage wolves” from without and to be cautious about the faithfulness of the brethren themselves (elders? or members of the congregation? Perhaps both are accurate.) 20:28-30
- f. He had warned them to be loyal to Christ for 3 years; he urged them to continue to be vigilant. 20:31
- g. They must seek God if they will stay strong and stand against opposition they may face! 20:32
- h. Again, he reminded them that he had coveted no one’s wealth; he had labored with his own hands to provide for himself and for those with him. He urged them to imitate his example and the words of Jesus. 20:33-35. These things may have been said because of false accusations being made against Paul.
- i. They had a very emotional farewell as they prayed together and wept before Paul left. They realized that this might be the last time they see each other in this life. 20:36-38

C. (Slide #28) Travels From Miletus To Judea. 21:1-17

1. Travels By Ship From Miletus To Caesarea. 21:1-17

- a. They took a small boat when they left Miletus; in it they came to Cos (40 miles), Rhodes (85 miles), and to Patara (70 miles). 1
- b. At Patara, they boarded a cargo ship that sailed to (►) Tyre, a city of Phoenicia (420 miles away): 2-5
 - 1. They arrived at Tyre where the ship unloaded. 3
 - 2. They met with the brethren there for 7 days. 4
 - 3. The Holy Spirit told these brethren that Paul would be bound if he went to Jerusalem; they pled with him because they did not want this evil to come upon him. Of course, Paul already knew this!
 - 4. When they were leaving, the brethren went down to the seashore and the brethren and the missionaries prayed together. 5
- c. From Tyre to (►) Caesarea. 21:6-8
 - 1. They re-boarded the ship and traveled to Ptolemais (25 miles); staying there a day, they met with brethren in that town. 6,7
 - 2. The next day they departed and came to Caesarea (30 miles). 8
 - 3. Events at Caesarea: 9-14
 - a. They entered Philip the evangelist’s house; he had 7 virgin daughters who prophesied. 9 (He is likely one of the seven servants chosen in Ac. 6, the one who taught in Samaria, and the one who taught and baptized the Ethiopian eunuch, Acts 8.)
 - b. After the missionaries had been at the house of Philip for several days, Agabus came and, using Paul’s belt, prophesied of Paul’s arrest in Jerusalem; he would be turned over to the Gentiles. 10,11. This is the same prophet who foretold the famine in Judea. 11:27-30

- c. The brethren, including Paul's traveling companions, begged Paul not to go to Jerusalem; he was determined to go and even to die if need be! The brethren finally said, "Let the will of the Lord be done!" 12-14
- 2. **Travels From Caesarea To Jerusalem.** 15-17
 - a. Paul, his companions, some Christians from Caesarea, and Mnason, from Cyprus packed up and headed "up" to Jerusalem (65 miles). They would reside in the house of Mnason, of Cyprus when they came to Jerusalem. 15,16
 - b. The brethren in Jerusalem eagerly welcomed Paul. 17

VIII. (Slide #29) Great Truths From Paul's Third Missionary Journey.

- A. (►) The Continued Missionary And Evangelistic Heart Of Paul!
 - 1. What a lesson for all of us about caring for lost souls!
 - 2. This Missionary Journey lasted between 4 and 5 years!
 - 3. What an example to Christians today to have hearts to care for and to reach out to people in Evansville, in Indiana and Kentucky, in the U.S., and in the world!!!
- B. (►) Fervency In Teaching And Influencing Others Does Not Mean That The Teaching Is Correct!
 - 1. Apollos was a dynamic teacher; however, he was teaching error!
 - 2. Teachers must be deeply concerned about what they teach, that it is GOD'S Word and Will, not our beliefs, our opinions, the world's views, or any other standard!
 - 3. Hearers much be taught Truth! Obeying error WILL NOT SAVE US!!!!
 - a. What a tragedy!
 - b. How many believe error, believe they are right with God, and are still in sin!
- C. (►) Godly Christians Must Care Enough For Those In Error To Assist Them To See That Error And Encourage Them To Obey The Lord; Only Then Will They Have His Blessings!

- D. Purpose Makes The Difference In (Determines The Efficacy Of) Baptism!
1. The ONLY reason for baptism is to be saved by the cleansing Blood of the Son of God!!!
 2. ANY OTHER REASON IS INVALID! It will have NO saving benefit.
 3. Ineffective reasons:
 - a. To please my parents.
 - b. Because people are PRESSURING me to do it.
 - c. Because my friends are doing it.
 - d. To show the world that I have already been saved!
 4. URGE personal examination and evaluation -- did you truly obey Christ and His teaching when you were baptized?