

**Acts 21:27:** *'And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him, crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place.'*

Lies upon lies, ever trying to destroy the Work of God through Paul... notice that these are *'the Jews which were of Asia;'* these are not 'Jerusalem Jews;' these are those from many of the Gentile areas of Turkey and Greece where the True Church has been growing for many years; they have all gathered in Jerusalem, and the Temple, in observance of Pentecost but the response now is so very different than it was on that Pentecost, some 25 years ago with the miraculous birth of the True Church when Peter stood up and preached, resulting in thousands coming to Salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now it is the Gentiles who are more readily coming to faith while the Jews are becoming more and more resistant to the Message of the Gospel and, so, now we've been seeing the Jews' growing animosity toward Paul and his Gospel of Grace.

Notice what lies these hateful Jews are spreading; it is their hatred of the Gentiles which is feeding their hatred as we'll soon see: *'...and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place:'* *'He/Paul has brought Gentiles into the temple and hath polluted this holy place...'*

**Verse 29:** *'For they had seen before with him in the city Trophimus an Ephesian, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.'*

Again with the lies! And the terrible racist hatred of any non-Jew... but it's a religious based hatred as insidious as Islam because any Gentile, white, brown or black, if they 'submit' (as with Islam) to become Jews, to being circumcised and adhere to the Law... suddenly they are acceptable! Now, to be sure... I am speaking of these N.T. Jews who refuse to submit to their own long-prophesied, long-anxiously awaited and obviously revealed- beyond-any-doubt Messiah! And, so, their religious hatred rings just as hollow as will Islam, 600 years hence.

And it is to these people, as well as to any and all Gentiles that Paul has, for 25 years, faithfully, humbly and persecutedly offered the Words of Life from their own Messiah.

The Jews had seen Paul with Trophimus, a Gentile and, so, assumed he had brought him into the Temple.

**Verse 30:** *'And all the city was moved, and the people ran together: and they took Paul, and drew him out of the temple: and forthwith the doors were shut. <sup>31</sup> And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the chief captain of the band, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. <sup>32</sup> Who immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down unto them: and when they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, they left beating of Paul.'*

As soon as the brave Jews, beating and planning to kill Paul saw at least 200 Roman soldiers show up they quickly changed their minds and quickly stopped beating him.

The chief captain is the captain of captains. Captains are centurions, commanding a 'century,' 100 Roman soldiers; the chief captain is the captain of centurions; he commands six centuries, roughly 600 soldiers; soon, we'll see that he will command 470 soldiers to protect and accompany Paul to his next destination.

How many times have we seen this exact scene played out during the last 25 years, during all of Paul's ministry!? The same Gentile-hating, Jesus-hating Jews grab Paul, take him out into the street and set about to kill him, to erase the Truth of the Lord Jesus Christ over Whom they still own the horrendous guilt of having rejected Him and then assassinating Him in the most vicious, most humiliating, most infamous way they could muster from their evil and fevered imaginations... little wonder that in just 10 years, God will bring the Babylonians to obliterate Jerusalem and the Temple and then scatter the Jews to the four winds... but! But! never forget, never lose sight of the absolute Truth that God is Faithful, He is Faithful to all His Word and Promises; He promised to never cast off Israel completely, that He would one day, in the far future, in the Last

Days, bring all Israel back into their Promised Land and eventually save all who remain at His Second Coming; that Promise He began to fulfill in earnest on May 14, 1948.

By the way... plug into Google: May 14, 1948, and you will get almost nothing referencing the birth of Israel while you'll be inundated with *pro-'palestinian'* propaganda.

**Verse 33:** *'Then the chief captain came near, and took him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains; and demanded who he was, and what he had done. <sup>34</sup> And some cried one thing, some another, among the multitude: and when he could not know the certainty for the tumult, he commanded him to be carried into the castle. <sup>35</sup> And when he came upon the stairs, so it was, that he was borne of the soldiers for the violence of the people. <sup>36</sup> For the multitude of the people followed after, crying, Away with him.'*

The chief captain takes hold of Paul and commands that he be bound with 2 chains before he even knows whether or not he has broken any Roman law; I believe this was done for the purpose of quieting the mob; at least the target of their anger was being treated harshly; hopefully, that will quiet them down a bit... he demanded to know Paul's crime but all he heard were the yells and screams of a tumultuous mob and so he ordered the soldiers to pick Paul up and carry him into the castle; the castle being the building at the center of the Roman military encampment, the barracks in Jerusalem.

**Verse 37:** *'And as Paul was to be led into the castle, he said unto the chief captain, May I speak unto thee? Who said, Canst thou speak Greek?'*

We find that Paul speaks not only Hebrew but also Greek.

**Verse 38:** *'Art not thou that Egyptian, which before these days madest an uproar, and leddest out into the wilderness four thousand men that were murderers?'*

Now we understand why the chief captain arrested Paul; he thought that he was an Egyptian who had led a rebellion of 4000 murderers!

**Verse 39:** *'But Paul said, I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city: and, I beseech thee, suffer me to speak unto the people. <sup>40</sup> And when he had given him licence, Paul stood on the stairs, and beckoned with the hand unto the people. And when there was made a great silence, he spake unto them in the Hebrew tongue, saying,'*

'I am a Jew, like these but I am also a citizen of an important city, Tarsus!'

Now the Romans are beginning to actually worry... Paul is a citizen! a very important distinction!

Let me speak to these Jews...

**Acts 22:1:** *'Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defence which I make now unto you. <sup>2</sup> (And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence: and he saith,)'*

It's suddenly very quiet as the Jews hear Paul speak to them in Hebrew!

**Verse 3:** *'I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.'*

I am a real man, a true human, a Jew as are you! (I know you consider these Gentiles, these Romans, as a little less than human... I was brought up here, in Jerusalem (the city of God!) I grew up learning from the greatest of Pharisees, Gamaliel, to become a perfect human, following the perfect Law given to our fathers; I was filled with zeal toward the Law as are you! I understand how you feel!

**Verse 4:** *'And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.'*

In fact, I, too, was so very zealous to see all these Christians be put to death... like you! In fact I even went after women... top that!

**Verse 5:** *'As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished.'*

This high priest and these elders; these are the very ones who had commissioned me to go to every city where Christians were; they sent letters with me to authorize my taking of any and all Christians, to tie them up and to carry them all down here to Jerusalem to be tried and punished, to be executed as heretics!

**Verse 6:** *'And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me. <sup>7</sup> And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? <sup>8</sup> And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest. <sup>9</sup> And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me.'*

Everyone with Paul saw the light but only he was blinded by it; Here's what I believe happened: John writes, in Revelation 1, of the risen Lord Jesus Christ's Eyes and Voice: *'... His eyes were as a flame of fire... and his voice as the sound of many waters...'* Rev 1:14, 15

They all saw the light but only Paul was blinded; Jesus stood right in front of Paul and looked directly into only his eyes; the bright flash of divine light then blinded Paul because everyone else saw it 'secondarily,' as if they had seen a bright light flash from behind something, seeing it only as it illuminated all around it, with the same being true of His Voice. He spoke directly into Paul's ears but the others heard it only secondarily, not directly and, so, it was more of an echo to them. Those around Paul saw but a reflected light and heard but a sound like an echo of waters, but not a voice. Now, of course this is only speculation but it makes sense to me.

**Verse 10:** *'And I said, What shall I do, LORD? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do. <sup>11</sup> And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus. <sup>12</sup> And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, <sup>13</sup> Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him. <sup>14</sup> And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of His mouth. <sup>15</sup> For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.'*

*'You shall be His witness,'* to testify as to *what you have seen and heard!* That is what we are called and commissioned to do as well. In addition to preaching the Gospel, we are called to testify as to what we've seen and heard: what we've seen and heard that He has done in others, what we've seen and heard that He has done in us and what we've seen and heard of all that He has done throughout His written Word. What do we read in Revelation? *'... for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. <sup>11</sup> And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and **by the word of their testimony**; and they loved not their lives unto the death.'* Revelation 12:10

**Verse 16:** (Ananias said to Paul) *'And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'*

Why do you suppose that the Holy Spirit, through /Ananias so emphasized the need for Paul to be baptized and why He did so, as well, through Peter, on the Day of Pentecost, when he did not so emphasize baptism in other places such as to the Philippian Jailor? Ananias was speaking to Paul, a Jew; Peter, at Pentecost, was preaching to Jews. For a Jew, being baptized upon trusting in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is, of course, following Jesus' example and identifying with His death and resurrection, but it is also a potentially life-altering decision of monumental consequences; to a Jew, as to a Muslim, today, it may mean the loss of friends, family, job... everything, even life itself! It may mean absolutely leaving the old life behind, counting it all as loss for the gain of finding Life Eternal in the Lord Jesus Christ. Today, it may be just as life-altering to a Mormon or to a Catholic or to a Hindu. To most of us, baptism may have seemed like a relatively small and inconsequential happening but to many others, around the World, it may be a life or death decision.

**Verse 17:** *'And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem, even while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance; <sup>18</sup> And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me. <sup>19</sup> And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every*

*synagogue them that believed on thee: <sup>20</sup> And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him.'*

The Holy Spirit said, get out! They will not receive your testimony concerning Me... You, as evidenced by your murderous actions today, prove yourselves to be just like them, in fact many of you, here, probably are, them and you are refusing to receive my eyewitness testimony concerning the Lord Jesus Christ!

I kept the coats of some of those murderers... I kept the coats of some of you... murderers of Stephen!

**Verse 21:** *'And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence **unto the Gentiles.** <sup>22</sup> And they gave him audience unto **this word, (Gentiles)** and then lifted up their voices, and said, Away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live. <sup>23</sup> And as they cried out, and cast off their clothes, and threw dust into the air,'*

As soon as Paul said the word, Gentiles! they were immediately transformed into an evil, murderous rampaging mob, showing forth their evil, self-righteous hatred for Gentiles!

Paul was not fit to even live once they heard that God had told him to go unto the Gentiles!

Where did this terrible hatred of Gentiles originate?

Yes, God had freed them from slavery in Egypt; He had brought all the plagues upon Egypt; He had commanded them to conquer and displace all the peoples who were inhabiting within the confines of the land He had promised to their ancestors, and He had even commanded them to completely annihilate some of those same peoples but it was never because He hated Gentiles/non-Jews but was always because those specific peoples were so infested with the worst possible sinful practices imaginable, as well as some of them also, perhaps, being infected with the DNA of giants from the interaction of fallen angels with their women, as was clearly seen in Genesis 6 when we're told that it would also happen again after that...

With all that, it's easy to see how their view of '*outsiders, non-Israelites,*' Gentiles could become so twisted as to finally morph into the vicious hatred of all Gentiles that we now see in the time of The Acts of the Apostles. But wasn't theirs a God of Mercy and Grace Who did, year after year, cover their many and heinous sins simply with the blood of a sacrificed animal sprinkled upon the Mercy Seat of the Ark in the Temple by the High Priest on the yearly Day of Atonement!? Didn't their God command them to Grace and Mercy toward others!?

God had consistently told them through His Prophets that it was never the blood of bulls, goats and lambs which ever saved even one of them but it was always, rather, His Own Grace, Mercy and Love which He had commanded that they also offer to all.

*'O my people, what have I done unto thee? and wherein have I wearied thee? testify against me. <sup>4</sup> For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the house of servants; and I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.... Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? <sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? <sup>8</sup> He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but **to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?**' Micah 6:3/6*

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Is it any wonder that God has so chastised Israel over these past 2000 years!? To be sure, we are no less deserving of God's chastisement, but, then, no nation had ever been so blessed as Israel, so miraculously preserved and protected through the centuries as Israel and, so, no nation had ever so dishonored and turned her back on God as did Israel... that is, perhaps, until now... with what we've watched over the past decades in this nation... we'll have to wait and see what is next, whether or not God will send us our own Babylonians to destroy us, in the guise of China or Russia or North Korea or Iran... or just our own evil and corrupt Left...