

Acts 21: The Test of God

I. At Tyre and at Ptolemais: Staying with the Disciples (vv. 1–7)

- A. Looked up the disciples
- B. Through the Holy Spirit, the disciples urged Paul not to set foot in Jerusalem
- C. Knelt down to pray and then said farewell to one another

II. At Caesarea: The Will of the Lord Be Done (vv. 8–14)

- A. At Philip's house — stayed there for some days
- B. The prophecy of the prophet Agabus — Paul to be persecuted in Jerusalem
- C. Paul's companions and the local saints begged him not to go to Jerusalem — they were weeping

III. At Jerusalem: Enormous Pressure (vv. 15–26)

- A. Stayed at the house of Mnason — a disciple of long standing
- B. The influence of the Traditionalists — many thousands had believed, zealous for the Law
- C. James' compromising statements
- D. Distinction between the letter and life
 - 1. Legalism vs. the Law of Christ
 - 2. Works vs. the works of the Holy Spirit
 - 3. Habits of tradition vs. habits of life
- E. "Do what we tell you" (v. 23) — observing the regulations and the law
- F. Paul's failure — because of human sentiment

IV. The Obstruction by the Lord's Hand (vv. 27–40)

- A. The opposition of the Jews — the Lord's hand not allowing Paul to fail further
- B. The whole city was provoked
- C. The enemy's consistent scheme — "Kill him," "away with him!"
- D. The intervention by the commander — the protection of the Lord's hand
- E. The awakening of Paul