

Arrival and Arrest
Lesson 4
Acts 21:17-36

First Days in Jerusalem - Acts 21:17-26

1. Paul was concerned about his visit to Jerusalem and had asked in his letter to the Romans that they pray with him about it. One of the requests was that his service would be acceptable to the Believers in Jerusalem. (Romans 15:31b) How was that request answered when Paul first arrived in Jerusalem? (Acts 21:17)

2. The next day, what did the team do? (Acts 21:18, 19)

3. What was the immediate reaction of these Jerusalem saints to Paul? (Acts 21:20a)

4. After this initial response James seemed to add a “but” indicating that not everyone would agree. What was Paul forewarned about? (Acts 21:20b)

Red flags should be going up in Paul’s mind over this. Review that statement again.

- How many Jewish believers was Paul told were in Jerusalem?

 - What were they zealous for?

 - What percentage of these Jewish believers did James say were this zealous?
5. All Jews in Jerusalem had heard about Paul. What information did James say troubled them the most? (Acts 21:21)

 6. Paul was asked what they should do knowing that news of his arrival would quickly spread throughout Jerusalem. But before Paul could answer, he was told of a plan they had devised. What was their plan? (Acts 21:23, 24a)

7. How did they expect this plan to defuse any trouble? (Acts 21:24b)

8. James reminded Paul of the decision that had been made at the Jerusalem Council in A.D. 50. (Acts 15) The question at the Jerusalem Council was salvation requirements of the Gentiles: must they be circumcised and obey the Law, in other words, become Jews first? The decision was based upon the evidence of God's Spirit which was that salvation is by God's grace based upon faith, not on becoming Jewish. What additional request had been made of the Gentiles at that time regarding the Law? (Acts 21:25)

9. Did Paul follow their plan? (Acts 21:26)

Arrest - Acts 21:27-36

10. Using Acts 21:27:
 - How long was the time of purification?

 - Where was Paul located at the time?

 - Who arrived?

 - What did they do?

11. These men shouted to the crowd, "*Men of Israel, help us!*" That got everyone's attention. Then they accused Paul of teaching all men everywhere against what three things? (Acts 21:28a)

12. These were very serious charges anywhere but especially considering where Paul was standing and what he was doing at the time. What evidence did these men give for such charges?
(Acts 21:28b)

13. Luke helped the reader understand the situation by adding his own comments in parentheses. What information did Luke add? (Acts 21:29)

14. Were these men successful in stirring up the crowd in their cause against Paul?
(Acts 21:30)

15. Paul had gone to the Temple to fulfill his purification vow. According to Acts 21:31:
 - What was happening to Paul?

 - Who heard about the situation?

 - What was the news he heard?

16. As someone used to action, how did he handle this situation? (Acts 21:32a)
 - At this point Luke called what was taking place a "riot." Define the word "riot."

 - What was the response of the rioters? (Acts 21:32b)

17. The next sequence of events Luke recorded is very important. Make a list, in order, of the details given in Acts 21:33 as to what the Commander did and said.

18. What answer did the Commander receive from the crowd? (Acts 21:34a)

19. What did he do then? (Acts 21:34b)

20. With the Commander in control, things should have settled down. What happened when Paul reached the steps of the barracks? (Acts 21:35, 36)

The story continues next week with Paul asking permission to address the crowd.