**Acts Chapters 21-23**

* Paul’s Return to Jerusalem
* Paul’s Defense Before the Jews
* Paul’s First Imprisonment
* Paul’s Defense Before the Sanhedrin

**Acts 21**

* Paul warned against going to Jerusalem.
  + VS 4 – in Tyre
  + VS 9 – Fourth daughters who were Prophetess in Caesarea.
  + VS 10 – Agabus, who was known to Paul came from Judea.
* Was Paul Disobedient?
  + Paul was not forbidden to go to Jerusalem.
  + It was told to him what would happen, and what to expect when he went.
* Paul did visit Jerusalem on three other occasions:
  + The famine relief described in Acts 11-27-30.
  + The Council in Jerusalem in Acts 15.
  + The report to the Elders in Jerusalem after the 2nd Missionary Journey, Acts 18.
* This visit was real trouble – the tension between the legalists who opposed Paul teaching that the converts were free from following the Law of Moses was extremely high.
* Paul reports to James all God had done among the Gentiles.
  + They glorified the Lord.
  + The Jewish converts were in the thousands yet continued to follow the Law.
  + They are opposed to your teaching - the dilemma – what to do.
  + Prove to them you are reverent and still obeying the Law of Moses.
  + The Gentiles do not have to do these things. (Acts 15 letter)
* Paul identified and seized the temple.
  + Accused of defiling the temple by bringing in a Gentile (he did not do this).
  + He teaches against the law.
  + He teaches against the temple.
  + An uproar follows and they try to kill him.
* Roman Intervention
  + Claudis Lysias – the Chief Captain
  + Paul Bound in chains – illegally.
  + Falsely identified as an Egyptian.
  + Paul allowed to speak to the Jews.

**Chapter 22**

* Paul’s Defense before the Jews – His Testimony – Acts 9, the Conversion on Damascus Road.
* The crowd’s reaction
  + Away with him
  + He deserves death.
* Paul was taken to the barracks.
  + To be examined by scourging.
  + Paul declares he is a Roman Citizen.
* The Chief Captain called the Jewish Council to appear before him.

**Chapter 23**

* Paul’s Defense before the Sanhedrin.
  + The division between the Pharisees and the Sadducees.
  + The resurrection from the death caused the split.
  + Disorder and confusion.
  + Scribes and Pharisees say Paul is innocent, other say he is guilty.
  + Paul again is delivered and protected by Roman soldiers.
* The Lord Stands by Paul.
  + Paul meets Jesus on the Road to Damascus.
  + Jesus trains Paul in the desert of Arabia.
  + Jesus warns Paul in the Temple shortly after his conversion.
  + Jesus encourages Paul in Corinth.
  + Jesus appears to him in the Roman barracks.
  + Jesus will encourage Paul again during the Shipwreck – Acts 27
  + Jesus is with Paul during his trial in Rome – 2 Timothy 4:16-17
* Plot to Kill Paul
  + 40 Jews take a vow not to eat or drink until Paul is dead.
  + The plot is made known by Paul’s nephew – his sisters’ son.
  + Paul is removed and transferred to Caesarea and Governor Felix.
  + The Captain writes a letter that exonerates Paul.
* Felix
  + Followed Pilate
  + Described by the Roman historian Tacitus as:
    - A scoundrel
    - A ruffian
    - Exploiting political situations to enrich himself.
    - Confiscated property and money illegally.
    - Allowed anarchy to rule in the countryside – lawlessness.
    - Everybody hated him.
  + Felix agrees to hear Paul and to bring the accusers to bring their case before him.