**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.