

## Acts 20:1-38 **Paul's final ministry ending third missionary journey**

### From Ephesus to Macedonia, Greece, & return to Macedonia and on to Troas heading to Jerusalem

<sup>1</sup> After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to himself, embraced them, and departed to go to Macedonia. <sup>2</sup> Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece <sup>3</sup> and stayed three months. And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. <sup>4</sup> And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia--also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. <sup>5</sup> These men, going ahead, waited for us at Troas. <sup>6</sup> But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days.

### At Troas Eutychus fell from third story – Paul embraced him and his life returned to him

<sup>7</sup> Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. <sup>8</sup> There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together. <sup>9</sup> And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. <sup>10</sup> But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him." <sup>11</sup> Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. <sup>12</sup> And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted.

### From Troas to Miletus

<sup>13</sup> Then we went ahead to the ship and sailed to Assos, there intending to take Paul on board; for so he had given orders, intending himself to go on foot. <sup>14</sup> And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene. <sup>15</sup> We sailed from there, and the next day came opposite Chios. The following day we arrived at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium. The next day we came to Miletus. <sup>16</sup> For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost.

### Ephesian Elders called to meet Paul at Miletus – Farewell message to Elders of Ephesus

<sup>17</sup> From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. <sup>18</sup> And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, <sup>19</sup> serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; <sup>20</sup> how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, <sup>21</sup> testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. <sup>24</sup> But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. <sup>25</sup> And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. <sup>27</sup> For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. <sup>28</sup> Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. <sup>29</sup> For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. <sup>30</sup> Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. 32 So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33 I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. 34 Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. 35 I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " 36 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. 37 Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, 38 sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship. NKJV

#### Facts Revealed:

#### From Ephesus to Macedonia, Greece, & return to Macedonia and on to Troas heading to Jerusalem

- ✚ After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to himself, embraced them, and departed to go to Macedonia.

Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece and stayed three months. And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.

And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia--also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. These men, going ahead, waited for us at Troas.

But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at **Troas**, where we stayed seven days. [Acts 20:1-6]

- ✧ Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen stirred up the mob in Ephesus into an uproar, in an attempt to defend their trade of making images of the goddess Diana of the Ephesians. [Acts 19:23-34]
- ✧ The city clerk had quieted the mob and dismissed them. [Acts 19:35-41]
- ✧ After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to himself, embraced them, and departed to go to **Macedonia**. [Acts 20:1]
  - ✧ The cities of Macedonia where churches were established were Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea.
- ✧ Paul went through Macedonia encouraging the believers with many words. [Acts 20:2]
- ✧ Then he came to **Greece** to the cities of Athens and Corinth where he stayed three months. [Acts 20:2]
- ✧ When Paul was making preparations to sail to Syria, the Jews plotted against him, so he decided to return through **Macedonia**. [Acts 20:3]
- ✧ Paul's traveling companions went on ahead of him to **Troas** in Mysia where they waited for him. [Acts 20:4-5]
  - ✧ Those in the company who went ahead to **Troas** were, Aristarchus, and Secundus of Thessalonica, Gaius of Derbe, Timothy of Lystra, Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. [Acts 20:4-5]
  - ✧ **Troas** was the seaport city of Mysia where Paul and company had first received the call to go to Macedonia on the second missionary journey. [Acts 16:6-12]
- ✧ Sopater of Berea, and Luke the writer of the book of Acts stayed with Paul and accompanied him to Asia, sailing from **Philippi** to **Troas** after the days of Unleavened

Bread (Passover) and joining those who had gone ahead five days earlier and they stayed in Troas for seven days. [Acts 20:4, 6]

✧ Luke was with Paul as discerned from his term, "We sailed" & "We stayed"

#### At Troas Eutychus fell from third story – Paul embraced him and his life returned to him

✧ Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together. And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him." Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted. [Acts 20:7-12]

✧ At **Troas** the disciples came together on the first day of the week to break bread.

✧ Paul, planning to depart the next day, spoke to them in the third story of the building, continuing his message to midnight.

✧ Eutychus was sitting in a window and sinking into a deep sleep, fell from the window and was taken up dead.

✧ Paul went down and embraced Eutychus whose life returned to him.

✧ Paul then returned to the third floor, broke bread, ate, and continued speaking until daybreak, and departed.

✧ They brought Eutychus in alive and were greatly comforted.

#### From Troas to Miletus

✧ Then we went ahead to the ship and sailed to **Assos**, there intending to take Paul on board; for so he had given orders, intending himself to go on foot. And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to **Mitylene**. We sailed from there, and the next day came opposite **Chios**. The following day we arrived at **Samos** and stayed at **Trogyllium**. The next day we came to **Miletus**. For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. [Acts 20:13-16]

✧ At this point Luke went ahead with the others aboard the ship sailing to **Assos** as Paul had commanded, while Paul went to Assos on foot.

✧ **Assos** was a seaport of Mysia about 20 miles over-land south of Troas, 30 miles by sea.

✧ When Paul came aboard the ship at Assos, they sailed to **Mitylene** on the south Eastern tip of the island of Lesbos.

✧ The next day they sailed to **Chios**, an island in the Aegean Sea at the entrance to the gulf of Smyrna.

✧ The following day they sailed to **Samos**, an island in the Aegean Sea about a mile off the coast of Lydia. They stayed at **Trogyllium**, a seaport on the Ionian coast about a mile from the island of Samos, about 20 miles south of Ephesus.

✧ The next day they came to **Miletus**, a famous Greek city on the coast of Caria, near the mouth of the Meander River, located about 37 miles south of Ephesus.

✧ Paul did not want to spend much time in Asia because he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem by the day of Pentecost if possible.

✧ Apparently the ship was to stay at **Miletus** for a time which allowed Paul to send for the elders of the Church of Ephesus to come to him at **Miletus**.

#### Ephesian Elders called to meet Paul at Miletus – Farewell message to Elders of Ephesus

✠ From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them:

"You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more.

Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship. [\[Acts 20:17-38\]](#)

#### Facts revealed in Paul's Farewell message to Elders of Ephesus

- ✧ Paul's life conduct while at Ephesus was exemplary from the time he first arrived in Asia.
- ✧ His service was sincere from the heart serving the Lord with all humility.
- ✧ Because of the plotting and resistance of the Jews he had experienced many tears and trials.
- ✧ Even in the face of all their opposition, Paul had kept back nothing that was needed for the instruction and edification of the Church in the Gospel message, teaching both publicly and in private houses.
- ✧ The message was the same for Jews and Greeks, that they needed repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. [\[Acts 20:17-21\]](#)

- ✧ Paul felt the hand of the Holy Spirit on him so intensely that he felt bound in the spirit to go to Jerusalem. [\[Acts 20:22\]](#)
- ✧ Paul was unsure of the things that lay ahead at Jerusalem, especially since the Holy Spirit testified to him in every city that he would face chains and tribulations at Jerusalem. [\[Acts 20:22-23\]](#)
- ✧ Paul was committed to go where the Spirit was to lead, no matter what it cost him. "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." [\[Acts 20:24\]](#)
- ✧ Paul was convinced that the Ephesians, to whom he had preached the Kingdom of God, would see his face no more, so this is the farewell message to them. [\[Acts 20:25\]](#)
  
- ✧ Paul's conscience was clear because he had not failed to declare to them the whole counsel of God, therefore those who did not believe made their choice at their own peril after having the entire Gospel message delivered to them by Paul. [\[Acts 20:26-27\]](#)
  
- ✧ Even leaders whom the Holy Spirit has made overseers, need the warning to "**take heed to themselves and to all the flock for whom they have been placed responsible, to shepherd the Church of God which He purchased with His own blood.**" [\[Acts 20:28\]](#)
  - ✧ Paul clearly viewed Jesus Christ to be God Who purchased the Church with His own blood.
- ✧ Paul knew that after he was removed from the scene, imposters would come in among the members of the Church, like savage wolves, not sparing the flock. [\[Acts 20:29\]](#)
- ✧ Paul also knew that people would rise up from among the Church members, who would introduce heresy as doctrine in an attempt to draw away disciples after themselves. [\[Acts 20:30\]](#)
  - ✧ So often we find people who do not know or believe the Scriptures who want to be leaders in the Church, and misrepresent the heart of the Gospel message, attempting to appear as authorities in spiritual matters.
- ✧ Paul had been with the Ephesians for three years, and during that time he had not ceased to warn everyone of the dangers that awaited them from deceivers and Judaizers. He had appealed to them with tears both day and night, to be on guard. [\[Acts 20:31\]](#)
  - ✧ The dangers from deceptive doctrines that come into the Church were great in the days of the apostles, and have grown more sophisticated as time goes by over the years since the time of the apostles.
  - ✧ When Paul wrote to Timothy whom he sent to Ephesus to establish leadership, he warned the same thing, "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons." [\[1 Timothy 4:1\]](#)
  - ✧ Jesus also warned of deceivers in the last days, "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many." [\[Matthew 24:11, 24, Mark 13:5-6, Luke 21:8\]](#)
  
- ✧ Paul is leaving them in the hand of God, with the Word of His grace which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. [\[Acts 20:32\]](#)
  
- ✧ Paul declared his faithfulness and integrity he displayed while among them, and the example of work with his own hands to provide for the necessities of himself and those

who were with him. Paul demonstrated by example that the believers must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord that, "it is more blessed to give than to receive."  
[\[Acts 20:33-35\]](#)

- ✧ When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. [\[Acts 20:36\]](#)
- ✧ Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship. [\[Acts 20:37-38\]](#)
  
- ✧ Paul is still on his way to Jerusalem and boarding the ship again at Miletus.