

PAULINE EPISTLES

- THE LORD ENCOURAGED PAUL IN A NIGHT VISION
- GOD CONFIRMED HIS DESIRE TO VISIT ROME
- REASONS FOR HIS DELAYED VISIT TO ROME
- PAUL SENT PRAYER POINTS TO ROME
- THE PLOT TO KILL PAUL IN JERUSALEM
- PAUL TRANSFERRED FROM JERUSALEM TO CAESAREA
- THE BODY OF THE LETTER SENT TO GOVERNOR FELIX

THE LORD ENCOURAGED PAUL IN A NIGHT VISION

- The night following the Lord stood by Paul, and said, “Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome”
- The above is not the first time we see God encouraging Paul in such a serious condition.
- In Corinth, when he was frustrated by the continuous rejection of the gospel by the Jews, he decided to leave but God showed up to encourage him.
- Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision,” Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city” Acts 18:6-11

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THE LORD ENCOURAGED PAUL IN A NIGHT VISION

- Because of this encouragement from the Lord, Paul continued in Corinth for 1year and 6 Months.
- God already told Paul through that revelation to look towards Rome where he so longed to visit

GOD CONFIRMED PAUL'S DESIRE TO VISIT ROME

- Paul while in Ephesus desired in the spirit to visit Rome Acts 19:21
- According to his Epistle to the Romans, he tried many years to visit Rome “but was let hitherto”. Romans 1:13

PAUL REASONS FOR HIS DELAYED VISIT TO ROME

- Paul was careful not to preach the gospel where Christ was already named. Romans 15:20-22
- Christ was already named in Rome, hence this delay in visiting Rome.
- As an Apostle, Paul was careful not to build on another man's foundation.

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LET'S SEE THE VERY REASONS HE WAS SO DETERMINED TO VISIT ROME NOW

- In every city he went to preach, he could see Rome's influence there
- As an Apostle to the Gentiles, he wanted to take the gospel of Christ to the world's centre of influence and power.
- When he was satisfied with what he was doing "Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have FULLY preached the gospel of Christ" Romans 15:19.
- His ultimate destination is Spain but he wants the church in Rome to be responsible for his journey to Spain.

Rom. 15: 23-24, 1 Cor. 9 : 7, Rom. 10:14-15

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LET'S SEE THE VERY REASONS HE WAS SO DETERMINED TO VISIT ROME NOW

- “ But now having NO MORE PLACE IN THESE PARTS, and having a great desire these years to come unto you.....”
Romans 15:23
- Paul traveling to Rome through Jerusalem, he was FULLY aware of the dangers that awaits him in Jerusalem. He gave three prayer points to the church in Rome before he embarked on the journey

PAUL'S PRAYER POINTS:

➤ “Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of the spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to GOD FOR ME”
Romans 15:30-32

1. That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judea
2. That my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints
3. That I may come unto you with Joy by the will of God

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PAUL WAS AWARE OF THE DANGERS IN JERUSALEM

- “And now ,behold, I GO BOUND in the Spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there”
- The Holy spirit already prepared him that in every city bonds and afflictions awaits him.
- Paul already signed his death warrant because of Christ, determined and resolved in his mind. “But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself so that I might finish my course with Joy....” Acts 20:22-24

THE PLOT TO KILL PAUL IN JERUSALEM

(Acts 23:12-22)

- Remember that the Sanhedrin council was divided in the last appearing of Paul ...
- Because of that uproar, more than forty men vowed to kill Paul
- They agreed that they will never eat nor drink anything till they had kill Paul.
- They actually brought their plan of killing Paul to the Chief priests and they concurred to it

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STRATEGY ON HOW TO KILL PAUL

- **CHIEF PRIETS:** Is to tell the chief commander that the Sanhedrin council have settled their difference and at such, he should bring Paul to continue his trial
- **THE FORTY MEN:** They will lay ambush and kill Paul on his way to their court.
- These people were supposed to be religious leaders thus plotting evil
- They were ready to kill an innocent man just the way they killed Christ
- God used a little boy to expose this plan just to save the life of Paul

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STRATEGY ON HOW TO KILL

- By this reveal, the commander Claudius Lysias quickly acted in favor of Paul
- God used him to deliver his servant from the hand and plans of his enemies
- Commander Claudius transferred Paul to the Roman seat of power.

PAUL TRANSFERRED FROM JERUSALEM TO CAESAREA (Acts 23:23-25)

- Caesarea was the Roman headquarters for the area while Jerusalem was the seat of Jewish government
- Claudius Lysias was the Roman military commander in Jerusalem and by his order, Paul was protected to Caesarea by overwhelming military force
- Two hundred Soldiers
- Seventy horsemen
- Two hundred spearmen
- A letter to governor Felix explaining the situation.

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PAUL TRANSFERRED FROM JERUSALEM TO CAESAREA (Acts 23:23-25)

- The position of Felix as the governor was the same position Pontius Pilate held during the time of Jesus Christ.
- Claudius in his letter stated that he asked Paul's accusers to meet him in Caesarea.

Let's see the body of the letter sent to Governor Felix



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THE BODY OF THE LETTER SENT TO GOVERNOR FELIX (Acts 23:26-35)

“Claudius Lysias unto the most excellent governor Felix *sendeth* greeting.

This man was taken of the Jews, and should have been killed of them: then came I with an army, and rescued him, having understood that he was a Roman.

And when I would have known the cause wherefore they accused him, I brought him forth into their council: Whom I perceived to be accused of questions of their law, but to have nothing laid to his charge worthy of death or of bonds.

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THE BODY OF THE LETTER SENT TO GOVERNOR FELIX (Acts 23:26-35)

And when it was told me how that the Jews laid wait for the man, I sent straightway to thee, and gave commandment to his accusers also to say before thee what *they had* against him. Farewell”.

- Governor Felix received the letter and Paul
- He Commanded Paul to be kept in Herod's Judgment hall until his accusers come.

THANKS AND GOD BLESS YOU

WE CONTINUE NEXT WEEK