



The Book of Acts:

The Gospel Turns the World
Upside Down

Week 1 and 2:

September 14th and 18th

Week 1 and 2
Questions to
Consider:

What two
baptisms are
contrasted?

What has the
Holy Spirit
empowered
them to do?

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus
2 began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he
3 had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom
4 he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering
5 by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking
6 about the kingdom of God.

7 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from
8 Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said,
9 “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be
10 baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

11 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at
12 this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not
13 for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own
14 authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come
15 upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea
16 and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” And when he had said these
17 things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him
18 out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went,
19 behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of
20 Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was
21 taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw
22 him go into heaven.”

23 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet,
24 which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. And when
25 they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were
26 staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas,
27 Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the

1 Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were
2 devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the
3 mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

4 In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of
5 persons was in all about 120) and said, “Brothers, the Scripture had
6 to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth
7 of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested
8 Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in
9 this ministry.” (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his
10 wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all
11 his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of
12 Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language
13 Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) “For it is written in the Book of
14 Psalms,

15 “May his camp become desolate,
16 and let there be no one to dwell in it’;
17 and “Let another take his office.’

18 So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that
19 the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the
20 baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of
21 these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” And
22 they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called
23 Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who
24 know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen
25 to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas
26 turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and
27 the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven
28 apostles.

29

How many
times is the
Holy Spirit
mentioned in
this passage?
Take note of
what the Holy
Spirit is doing.

What other
observations
do you see in
this chapter?

NOTES OR THOUGHTS FOR WEEK 1 AND 2:

Week 3: _____

October 5

1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one
2 place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty
3 rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.
4 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each
5 one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began
6 to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

What are some emotions people expressed after what they saw at Pentecost?

7 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every
8 nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together,
9 and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak
10 in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying,
11 “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we
12 hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and
13 Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia,
14 Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya
15 belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and
16 proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own
17 tongues the mighty works of God.” And all were amazed and
18 perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others
19 mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

20 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and
21 addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let
22 this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these people are
23 not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.
24 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

25 “And in the last days it shall be, God declares,
26 that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
27 and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
28 and your young men shall see visions,
29 and your old men shall dream dreams;
30 even on my male servants and female servants
31 in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.
32 And I will show wonders in the heavens above
33 and signs on the earth below,
34 blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;
35 the sun shall be turned to darkness
36 and the moon to blood,
37 before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.
38 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of
39 the Lord shall be saved.’

Who is the Spirit
poured out upon in
Joel 2:28-32?

40 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested
41 to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did
42 through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus,
43 delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God,
44 you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him
45 up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to
46 be held by it. For David says concerning him,
47 “I saw the Lord always before me,
48 for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;

49 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
50 my flesh also will dwell in hope.
51 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
52 or let your Holy One see corruption.
53 You have made known to me the paths of life;
54 you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

55 "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch
56 David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this
57 day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with
58 an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne,
59 he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was
60 not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus
61 God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted
62 at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the
63 promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves
64 are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but
65 he himself says,

66
67 "The Lord said to my Lord,
68 "Sit at my right hand,
69 until I make your enemies your footstool."

70
71 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has
72 made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

73 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to
74 Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And
75 Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the
76 name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will
77 receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for

What are some
different
observations you
noticed in this
segment?

78 your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our
79 God calls to himself.” And with many other words he bore witness and
80 continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked
81 generation.” So those who received his word were baptized, and there
82 were added that day about three thousand souls.

83 And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the
84 fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came
85 upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done
86 through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all
87 things in common. And they were selling their possessions and
88 belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And
89 day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their
90 homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,
91 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added
92 to their number day by day those who were being saved.

List what they
did after they
received the
Word and were
baptized?

NOTES OR THOUGHTS FOR WEEK 3:

Week 4: _____

October 12

1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of
2 prayer, the ninth hour. And a man lame from birth was being
3 carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called
4 the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. Seeing
5 Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive
6 alms. And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said,
7 “Look at us.” And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to
8 receive something from them. But Peter said, “I have no silver and
9 gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of
10 Nazareth, rise up and walk!” And he took him by the right hand and
11 raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made
12 strong. And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the
13 temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all
14 the people saw him walking and praising God, and recognized him
15 as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for
16 alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had
17 happened to him.

18 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded,
19 ran together to them in the portico called Solomon’s. And when Peter
20 saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder
21 at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety
22 we have made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and
23 the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus,
24 whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when
25 he had decided to release him. But you denied the Holy and
26 Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and

What
Observations do
you see in this
weeks readings
that stood out to
you?

What names or
descriptions are
used for God
and Jesus?

27 you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this
28 we are witnesses. And his name—by faith in his name—has made this
29 man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through
30 Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

31 “And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also
32 your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets,
33 that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and
34 turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing
35 may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the
36 Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the
37 time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth
38 of his holy prophets long ago. Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up
39 for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him
40 in whatever he tells you. And it shall be that every soul who does not
41 listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’ And all the
42 prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after
43 him, also proclaimed these days. You are the sons of the prophets and
44 of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham,
45 ‘And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.’
46 God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you
47 by turning every one of you from your wickedness.”

48 And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the
49 captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly
50 annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in
51 Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and
52 put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But
53 many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of
54 the men came to about five thousand.

55 On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered

56 together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and
57 John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.
58 And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what
59 power or by what name did you do this?” Then Peter, filled with the
60 Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are
61 being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled
62 man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all
63 of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ
64 of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—
65 by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone
66 that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the
67 cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no
68 other name under heaven given among men by which we must be
69 saved.”

70 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived
71 that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And
72 they recognized that they had been with Jesus. But seeing the man
73 who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in
74 opposition. But when they had commanded them to leave the council,
75 they conferred with one another, saying, “What shall we do with these
76 men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is
77 evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.
78 But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us
79 warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” So they called
80 them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of
81 Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the
82 sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for
83 we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.” And when they
84 had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to

85 punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what
86 had happened. For the man on whom this sign of healing was
87 performed was more than forty years old.

88 When they were released, they went to their friends and reported
89 what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they
90 heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign
91 Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything
92 in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant,
93 said by the Holy Spirit,

94 “Why did the Gentiles rage,
95 and the peoples plot in vain?

96 The kings of the earth set themselves,
97 and the rulers were gathered together,
98 against the Lord and against his Anointed’—

99 for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy
100 servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate,
101 along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your
102 hand and your plan had predestined to take place. And now, Lord,
103 look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to
104 speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand
105 to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of
106 your holy servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place in
107 which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all
108 filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God
109 with boldness.

What was the
apostles
response to
their own
arrest?

NOTES OR THOUGHTS FOR WEEK 4:

Week 5:

October 19

1 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul,
2 and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his
3 own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the
4 apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord
5 Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy
6 person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses
7 sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the
8 apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. Thus
9 Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means
10 son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that
11 belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles'
12 feet.

Who are
Ananias and
Sapphira
contrasted too?

13 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of
14 property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some
15 of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles'
16 feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to
17 the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of
18 the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And
19 after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have
20 contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to
21 God." When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed
22 his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. The young men
23 rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

What emotion
was produced
from the death
of Ananias and
Sapphira?

24 After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing

25 what had happened. And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold
26 the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." But Peter said
27 to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the
28 Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at
29 the door, and they will carry you out." Immediately she fell down at
30 his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they
31 found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her
32 husband. And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all
33 who heard of these things.

What are some things that you observed that you didn't understand this week?

NOTES OR THOUGHTS FOR WEEK 5:

Week 6: _____
October 26

1 Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people
2 by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's
3 Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in
4 high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord,
5 multitudes of both men and women, so that they even carried out the
6 sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter
7 came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people
8 also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and
9 those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

What are the different emotions listed in the apostles arrest story? Who is experiencing these emotions and why?

10

11 But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the
12 party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy they arrested the
13 apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an
14 angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and
15 said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words
16 of this Life." And when they heard this, they entered the temple at
17 daybreak and began to teach.

18 Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him,
19 they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel,
20 and sent to the prison to have them brought. But when the officers
21 came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and
22 reported, "We found the prison securely locked and the guards
23 standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one
24 inside." Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests
25 heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them,
26 wondering what this would come to. And someone came and told
27 them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the

28 temple and teaching the people.” Then the captain with the officers
29 went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of
30 being stoned by the people.

31 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council.
32 And the high priest questioned them, saying, “We strictly charged you
33 not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your
34 teaching, and you intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” But Peter
35 and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. The
36 God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a
37 tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give
38 repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to
39 these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those
40 who obey him.”

41 When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them.
42 But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law
43 held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the
44 men outside for a little while. And he said to them, “Men of Israel,
45 take care what you are about to do with these men. For before these
46 days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of
47 men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who
48 followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. After him Judas
49 the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of
50 the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were
51 scattered. So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men
52 and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will
53 fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You
54 might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, and
55 when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them
56 not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the

What other
observations do
you see?

57 presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to
58 suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from
59 house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the
60 Christ is Jesus.

61 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number,
62 a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their
63 widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve
64 summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right
65 that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.
66 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good
67 repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this
68 duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the
69 word." And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they
70 chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip,
71 and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and
72 Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles,
73 and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

74 And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the
75 disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the
76 priests became obedient to the faith.

What was
happening in
Jerusalem?

NOTES OR THOUGHTS FOR WEEK 6:

Week 7: _____
November 2

1 And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and
2 signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the
3 synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians,
4 and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up
5 and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom
6 and the Spirit with which he was speaking. Then they secretly
7 instigated men who said, “We have heard him speak blasphemous
8 words against Moses and God.” And they stirred up the people and the
9 elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and
10 brought him before the council, and they set up false witnesses who
11 said, “This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place
12 and the law, for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will
13 destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered
14 to us.” And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face
15 was like the face of an angel.

16 And the high priest said, “Are these things so?” And Stephen said:
17 “Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our
18 father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in
19 Haran, and said to him, ‘Go out from your land and from your
20 kindred and go into the land that I will show you.’ Then he went out
21 from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his
22 father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you
23 are now living. Yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot’s
24 length, but promised to give it to him as a possession and to his
25 offspring after him, though he had no child. And God spoke to this
26 effect—that his offspring would be sojourners in a land belonging to
27 others, who would enslave them and afflict them four hundred years.

Take note of the
observation of
“who” through
chapter 7?

28 'But I will judge the nation that they serve,' said God, 'and after that
29 they shall come out and worship me in this place.' And he gave him
30 the covenant of circumcision. And so Abraham became the father of
31 Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day, and Isaac became the
32 father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.

33 "And the patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt; but God
34 was with him and rescued him out of all his afflictions and gave him
35 favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who made him ruler
36 over Egypt and over all his household. Now there came a famine
37 throughout all Egypt and Canaan, and great affliction, and our fathers
38 could find no food. But when Jacob heard that there was grain in
39 Egypt, he sent out our fathers on their first visit. And on the second
40 visit Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and Joseph's family
41 became known to Pharaoh. And Joseph sent and summoned Jacob his
42 father and all his kindred, seventy-five persons in all. And Jacob went
43 down into Egypt, and he died, he and our fathers, and they were
44 carried back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had
45 bought for a sum of silver from the sons of Hamor in Shechem.

46 "But as the time of the promise drew near, which God had granted
47 to Abraham, the people increased and multiplied in Egypt until there
48 arose over Egypt another king who did not know Joseph. He dealt
49 shrewdly with our race and forced our fathers to expose their infants,
50 so that they would not be kept alive. At this time Moses was born; and
51 he was beautiful in God's sight. And he was brought up for three
52 months in his father's house, and when he was exposed, Pharaoh's
53 daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son. And Moses
54 was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty
55 in his words and deeds.

56 "When he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his

57 brothers, the children of Israel. And seeing one of them being
58 wronged, he defended the oppressed man and avenged him by
59 striking down the Egyptian. He supposed that his brothers would
60 understand that God was giving them salvation by his hand, but they
61 did not understand. And on the following day he appeared to them as
62 they were quarreling and tried to reconcile them, saying, ‘Men, you
63 are brothers. Why do you wrong each other?’ But the man who was
64 wronging his neighbor thrust him aside, saying, ‘Who made you a
65 ruler and a judge over us? Do you want to kill me as you killed the
66 Egyptian yesterday?’ At this retort Moses fled and became an exile in
67 the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons.

68 “Now when forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the
69 wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses
70 saw it, he was amazed at the sight, and as he drew near to look, there
71 came the voice of the Lord: ‘I am the God of your fathers, the God of
72 Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob.’ And Moses trembled and did not
73 dare to look. Then the Lord said to him, ‘Take off the sandals from
74 your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. I have
75 surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have
76 heard their groaning, and I have come down to deliver them. And now
77 come, I will send you to Egypt.’

78 “This Moses, whom they rejected, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler
79 and a judge?’—this man God sent as both ruler and redeemer by the
80 hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush. This man led them
81 out, performing wonders and signs in Egypt and at the Red Sea and in
82 the wilderness for forty years. This is the Moses who said to the
83 Israelites, ‘God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your
84 brothers.’ This is the one who was in the congregation in the
85 wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with

86 our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us. Our fathers
87 refused to obey him, but thrust him aside, and in their hearts they
88 turned to Egypt, saying to Aaron, 'Make for us gods who will go before
89 us. As for this Moses who led us out from the land of Egypt, we do not
90 know what has become of him.' And they made a calf in those days,
91 and offered a sacrifice to the idol and were rejoicing in the works of
92 their hands. But God turned away and gave them over to worship the
93 host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets:

What observations do you see in this week's readings that stood out to you?

94

95 "Did you bring to me slain beasts and sacrifices,
96 during the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?
97 You took up the tent of Moloch
98 and the star of your god Rephan,
99 the images that you made to worship;
100 and I will send you into exile beyond Babylon.'

101

102 "Our fathers had the tent of witness in the wilderness, just as he who
103 spoke to Moses directed him to make it, according to the pattern that
104 he had seen. Our fathers in turn brought it in with Joshua when they
105 dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our fathers. So it
106 was until the days of David, who found favor in the sight of God and
107 asked to find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. But it was Solomon
108 who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses
109 made by hands, as the prophet says,

110 "Heaven is my throne,

111 and the earth is my footstool.

112 What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord,

113 or what is the place of my rest?

114 Did not my hand make all these things?'

115 “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you
116 always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of
117 the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those
118 who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom
119 you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as
120 delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

121

122 Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they
123 ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into
124 heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand
125 of God. And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son
126 of Man standing at the right hand of God.” But they cried out with a
127 loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then
128 they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid
129 down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as
130 they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my
131 spirit.” And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord,
132 do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell
133 asleep.

Who does
Stephen compare
the people too?

NOTES OR THOUGHTS FOR WEEK 7:

Week 8

November 9

1 What is the catalyst to scatter the church and where is it scattered too
2 (8:1)? And Saul approved of his execution.

3 And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church
4 in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of
5 Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen
6 and made great lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the
7 church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and
8 women and committed them to prison.

9 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.
10 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the
11 Christ. And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was
12 being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he
13 did. For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many
14 who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So
15 there was much joy in that city.

16 But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced
17 magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he
18 himself was somebody great. They all paid attention to him, from the
19 least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the power of God that is
20 called Great." And they paid attention to him because for a long time
21 he had amazed them with his magic. But when they believed Philip as
22 he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of
23 Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Even Simon
24 himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip.
25 And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.

26 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had

What is the catalyst to scatter the church and where is it scattered too (8:1)?

What geographic locations do you see in this segment?

27 received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came
28 down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for
29 he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized
30 in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and
31 they received the Holy Spirit. Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was
32 given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them
33 money, saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I
34 lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." But Peter said to him, "May
35 your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the
36 gift of God with money! You have neither part nor lot in this matter,
37 for your heart is not right before God. Repent, therefore, of this
38 wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent
39 of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of
40 bitterness and in the bond of iniquity." And Simon answered, "Pray
41 for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon
42 me."

43 Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they
44 returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the
45 Samaritans.

46 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the
47 south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a
48 desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a
49 eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was
50 in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship
51 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the
52 prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this
53 chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the
54 prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And
55 he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited

56 Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture
57 that he was reading was this:
58 “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
59 and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
60 so he opens not his mouth.
61 In his humiliation justice was denied him.
62 Who can describe his generation?
63 For his life is taken away from the earth.”
64 And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the
65 prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip
66 opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the
67 good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they
68 came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What
69 prevents me from being baptized?” And he commanded the chariot to
70 stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch,
71 and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the
72 Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no
73 more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at
74 Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the
75 towns until he came to Caesarea.

What observations
do you see in this
week’s readings
that stood out to
you?

NOTES OR THOUGHTS FOR WEEK 8:

Week 9

January 4

1 But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of
2 the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the
3 synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way,
4 men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he
5 went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from
6 heaven shone around him. And falling to the ground, he heard a voice
7 saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And he said,
8 "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are
9 persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you
10 are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless,
11 hearing the voice but seeing no one. Saul rose from the ground, and
12 although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the
13 hand and brought him into Damascus. And for three days he was
14 without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

15 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord
16 said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." And
17 the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at
18 the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold,
19 he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come
20 in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But
21 Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man,
22 how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. And here he
23 has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name."
24 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine
25 to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of
26 Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of
27 my name." So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying

What is
connected to
Paul's ministry
to the Gentiles?

28 his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared
29 to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may
30 regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” And immediately
31 something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight.
32 Then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened.

33 For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. And
34 immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is
35 the Son of God.” And all who heard him were amazed and said, “Is
36 not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called
37 upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to
38 bring them bound before the chief priests?” But Saul increased all
39 the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in
40 Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

41 When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, but their
42 plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and
43 night in order to kill him, but his disciples took him by night and let
44 him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

45 And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the
46 disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that
47 he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the
48 apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord,
49 who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in
50 the name of Jesus. So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem,
51 preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. And he spoke and disputed
52 against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. And when
53 the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent
54 him off to Tarsus.

55 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had
56 peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and

What time
elements do you
notice in this
paragraph?

57 in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

58 Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down
59 also to the saints who lived at Lydda. There he found a man named
60 Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. And Peter said
61 to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And
62 immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw
63 him, and they turned to the Lord.

64 Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which,
65 translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of
66 charity. In those days she became ill and died, and when they had
67 washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near
68 Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to
69 him, urging him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and
70 went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper
71 room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics
72 and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them. But
73 Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to
74 the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when
75 she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and raised her up.
76 Then, calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it
77 became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.
78 And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.

What
observations
do you see in
this week's
readings that
stood out to
you?

NOTES OR THOUGHTS FOR WEEK 9:

Week 10

January 11

1 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what
2 was known as the Italian Cohort, a devout man who feared God with
3 all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed
4 continually to God. About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in
5 a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius." And he
6 stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to
7 him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before
8 God. And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called
9 Peter. He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the
10 sea." When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of
11 his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended
12 him, and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

13 The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the
14 city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. And
15 he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were
16 preparing it, he fell into a trance and saw the heavens opened and
17 something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four
18 corners upon the earth. In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and
19 birds of the air. And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and
20 eat." But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten
21 anything that is common or unclean." And the voice came to him again
22 a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common." This
23 happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.

24 Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that
25 he had seen might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius,
26 having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the gate and called
27 out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there. And

28 while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold,
29 three men are looking for you. Rise and go down and accompany them
30 without hesitation, for I have sent them.” And Peter went down to the
31 men and said, “I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason
32 for your coming?” And they said, “Cornelius, a centurion, an upright
33 and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish
34 nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his
35 house and to hear what you have to say.” So he invited them in to be
36 his guests.

37 The next day he rose and went away with them, and some of the
38 brothers from Joppa accompanied him. And on the following day
39 they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called
40 together his relatives and close friends. When Peter entered,
41 Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. But
42 Peter lifted him up, saying, “Stand up; I too am a man.” And as he
43 talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered. And
44 he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew
45 to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has
46 shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean. So
47 when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you
48 sent for me.”

49 And Cornelius said, “Four days ago, about this hour, I was praying
50 in my house at the ninth hour, and behold, a man stood before me in
51 bright clothing and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and
52 your alms have been remembered before God. Send therefore to
53 Joppa and ask for Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging in the
54 house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.’ So I sent for you at once, and
55 you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in
56 the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the

What does Peter
contrast in this
paragraph?

57 Lord.”

58 So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God
59 shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and
60 does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to
61 Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord
62 of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea,
63 beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how
64 God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power.
65 He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the
66 devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did
67 both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to
68 death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day
69 and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been
70 chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose
71 from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to
72 testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and
73 the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who
74 believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

75 While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all
76 who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised
77 who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy
78 Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing
79 them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared,
80 “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have
81 received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” And he commanded them
82 to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to
83 remain for some days.

84 Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard
85 that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter

What repeated
word do you see
in this
paragraph?

86 went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying,
87 “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.” But Peter began
88 and explained it to them in order: “I was in the city of Joppa praying,
89 and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending,
90 being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to
91 me. Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and
92 reptiles and birds of the air. And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise,
93 Peter; kill and eat.’ But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing
94 common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ But the voice
95 answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do
96 not call common.’ This happened three times, and all was drawn up
97 again into heaven. And behold, at that very moment three men arrived
98 at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. And the
99 Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six
100 brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. And
101 he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send
102 to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; he will declare to you a
103 message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ As I
104 began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the
105 beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said,
106 ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy
107 Spirit.’ If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when
108 we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in
109 God’s way?” When they heard these things they fell silent. And they
110 glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted
111 repentance that leads to life.”

112 Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose
113 over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch,
114 speaking the word to no one except Jews. But there were some of

What observations do you see in this week’s readings that stood out to you?

115 them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to
116 the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the
117 Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the
118 Lord. The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem,
119 and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace
120 of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the
121 Lord with steadfast purpose, for he was a good man, full of the Holy
122 Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.
123 So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found
124 him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the
125 church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples
126 were first called Christians.

127 Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.
128 And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit
129 that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place
130 in the days of Claudius). So the disciples determined, every one
131 according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea.
132 And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and
133 Saul.

What event is
foretold of?

NOTES OR THOUGHTS FOR WEEK 10:

Week 11

January 18

How does God use angels in Chapter 12?

1 About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who
2 belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the
3 sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to
4 arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And
5 when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to
6 four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to
7 bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest
8 prayer for him was made to God by the church.

9 Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night,
10 Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and
11 sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an
12 angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He
13 struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And
14 the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself
15 and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap
16 your cloak around you and follow me." And he went out and followed
17 him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real,
18 but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and
19 the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It
20 opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along
21 one street, and immediately the angel left him. When Peter came to
22 himself, he said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and
23 rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish
24 people were expecting."

25 When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of
26 John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered
27 together and were praying. And when he knocked at the door of the

28 gateway, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. Recognizing
29 Peter's voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and
30 reported that Peter was standing at the gate. They said to her, "You
31 are out of your mind." But she kept insisting that it was so, and they
32 kept saying, "It is his angel!" But Peter continued knocking, and when
33 they opened, they saw him and were amazed. But motioning to them
34 with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had
35 brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Tell these things to James
36 and to the brothers." Then he departed and went to another place.

37 Now when day came, there was no little disturbance among the
38 soldiers over what had become of Peter. And after Herod searched for
39 him and did not find him, he examined the sentries and ordered that
40 they should be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to
41 Caesarea and spent time there.

42 Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they
43 came to him with one accord, and having persuaded Blastus, the
44 king's chamberlain, they asked for peace, because their country
45 depended on the king's country for food. On an appointed day Herod
46 put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an
47 oration to them. And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god,
48 and not of a man!" Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down,
49 because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and
50 breathed his last.

51 But the word of God increased and multiplied.

52 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had
53 completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name
54 was Mark.

What observations do you see in this week's readings that stood out to you?

NOTES OR THOUGHTS FOR WEEK 11:

Week 12 and 13

January 25 and February 1

In each town they visit what place do they visit first?

1 Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers,
2 Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a
3 lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were
4 worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for
5 me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then
6 after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them
7 off.

8 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia,
9 and from there they sailed to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis,
10 they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And
11 they had John to assist them. When they had gone through the whole
12 island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish
13 false prophet named Bar-Jesus. He was with the proconsul, Sergius
14 Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and
15 sought to hear the word of God. But Elymas the magician (for that is
16 the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the
17 proconsul away from the faith. But Saul, who was also called Paul,
18 filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, "You son
19 of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and
20 villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the
21 Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will
22 be blind and unable to see the sun for a time." Immediately mist and
23 darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him
24 by the hand. Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had
25 occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

26 Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to
27 Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem,
28 but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on
29 the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. After the

30 reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue
31 sent a message to them, saying, “Brothers, if you have any word of
32 encouragement for the people, say it.” So Paul stood up, and
33 motioning with his hand said:

34 “Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. The God of this
35 people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during
36 their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out
37 of it. And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness.
38 And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave
39 them their land as an inheritance. All this took about 450 years. And
40 after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. Then they
41 asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of
42 the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. And when he had removed
43 him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and
44 said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart,
45 who will do all my will.’ Of this man’s offspring God has brought to
46 Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised. Before his coming, John had
47 proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And
48 as John was finishing his course, he said, ‘What do you suppose that
49 I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the
50 sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.’

51 “Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who
52 fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. For those
53 who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize
54 him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read
55 every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. And though they
56 found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him
57 executed. And when they had carried out all that was written of him,
58 they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. But God
59 raised him from the dead, and for many days he appeared to those
60 who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now

In each town
they visit what
place do they
visit first?

61 his witnesses to the people. And we bring you the good news that what
62 God promised to the fathers, this he has fulfilled to us their children
63 by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm,
64 “You are my Son,
65 today I have begotten you.’
66 And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return
67 to corruption, he has spoken in this way,
68 “I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.’
69 Therefore he says also in another psalm,
70 “You will not let your Holy One see corruption.’
71 For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own
72 generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw
73 corruption, but he whom God raised up did not see corruption. Let it
74 be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man
75 forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who
76 believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed
77 by the law of Moses. Beware, therefore, lest what is said in the
78 Prophets should come about:
79 “Look, you scoffers,
80 be astounded and perish;
81 for I am doing a work in your days,
82 a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you.”

83 As they went out, the people begged that these things might be told
84 them the next Sabbath. And after the meeting of the synagogue broke
85 up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and
86 Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in
87 the grace of God.

88 The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word
89 of the Lord. But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with
90 jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling
91 him. And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was

92 necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust
93 it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are
94 turning to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,
95 “I have made you a light for the Gentiles,
96 that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

97 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and
98 glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to
99 eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was spreading
100 throughout the whole region. But the Jews incited the devout women
101 of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up
102 persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their
103 district. But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and
104 went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the
105 Holy Spirit.

106 Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue
107 and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks
108 believed. But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and
109 poisoned their minds against the brothers. So they remained for a long
110 time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of
111 his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. But
112 the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and
113 some with the apostles. When an attempt was made by both Gentiles
114 and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them, they
115 learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to
116 the surrounding country, and there they continued to preach the
117 gospel.

118 Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet.
119 He was crippled from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul
120 speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had
121 faith to be made well, said in a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.”
122 And he sprang up and began walking. And when the crowds saw what

123 Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, “The
124 gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!” Barnabas they
125 called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. And
126 the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city,
127 brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice
128 with the crowds. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it,
129 they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out,
130 “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature
131 with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from
132 these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth
133 and the sea and all that is in them. In past generations he allowed all
134 the nations to walk in their own ways. Yet he did not leave himself
135 without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and
136 fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.” Even
137 with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering
138 sacrifice to them.

139 But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded
140 the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city,
141 supposing that he was dead. But when the disciples gathered about
142 him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on
143 with Barnabas to Derbe. When they had preached the gospel to that
144 city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to
145 Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples,
146 encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through
147 many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they
148 had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting
149 they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

150 Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. And
151 when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia,
152 and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been
153 commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled.

154 And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they
155 declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a
156 door of faith to the Gentiles. And they remained no little time with the
157 disciples.

158 But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the
159 brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of
160 Moses, you cannot be saved.” And after Paul and Barnabas had no
161 small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some
162 of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and
163 the elders about this question. So, being sent on their way by the
164 church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing
165 in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all
166 the brothers. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by
167 the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that
168 God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the
169 party of the Pharisees rose up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise
170 them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.”

171 The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this
172 matter. And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and
173 said to them, “Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a
174 choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the
175 word of the gospel and believe. And God, who knows the heart, bore
176 witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us,
177 and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed
178 their hearts by faith. Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the
179 test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our
180 fathers nor we have been able to bear? But we believe that we will be
181 saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

182 And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and
183 Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through
184 them among the Gentiles. After they finished speaking, James replied,

185 “Brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first visited the
186 Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name. And with this the
187 words of the prophets agree, just as it is written,
188 “After this I will return,
189 and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen;
190 I will rebuild its ruins,
191 and I will restore it,
192 that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord,
193 and all the Gentiles who are called by my name,
194 says the Lord, who makes these things
195 known from of old.’ Therefore my judgment is that we should not
196 trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, but should write to
197 them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual
198 immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. For
199 from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who
200 proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues.”

201 Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole
202 church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch
203 with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas,
204 leading men among the brothers, with the following letter: “The
205 brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the brothers who are of
206 the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings. Since we have
207 heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with
208 words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions,
209 it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men
210 and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who
211 have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have
212 therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same
213 things by word of mouth. For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit
214 and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements:
215 that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from

216 blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual
217 immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well.
218 Farewell.”

219 So when they were sent off, they went down to Antioch, and having
220 gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. And
221 when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement.
222 And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and
223 strengthened the brothers with many words. And after they had spent
224 some time, they were sent off in peace by the brothers to those who
225 had sent them. But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching
226 and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

What
observations do
you see in this
week’s readings
that stood out to
you?

NOTES OR THOUGHTS FOR WEEK 12 and 13:

Week 14 and 15

February 8 and 15

1 And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit
2 the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord,
3 and see how they are." Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John
4 called Mark. But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had
5 withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to
6 the work. And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they
7 separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed
8 away to Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been
9 commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. And he went
10 through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

11 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named
12 Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father
13 was a Greek. He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and
14 Iconium. Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him
15 and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places,
16 for they all knew that his father was a Greek. As they went on their
17 way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the
18 decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were
19 in Jerusalem. So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they
20 increased in numbers daily.

21 And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having
22 been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when
23 they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but
24 the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. So, passing by Mysia, they went
25 down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of
26 Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to
27 Macedonia and help us." And when Paul had seen the vision,

Who are some
of the first
converts in each
city?

28 immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God
29 had called us to preach the gospel to them.

List all the cities
they visited?

30 So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace,
31 and the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which
32 is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We
33 remained in this city some days. And on the Sabbath day we went
34 outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place
35 of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come
36 together. One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city
37 of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The
38 Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. And
39 after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us,
40 saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my
41 house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

42 As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl
43 who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by
44 fortune-telling. She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are
45 servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of
46 salvation." And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having
47 become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command
48 you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out
49 that very hour.

50 But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they
51 seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before
52 the rulers. And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they
53 said, "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. They
54 advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or
55 practice." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates
56 tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods.

57 And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them
58 into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. Having received
59 this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in
60 the stocks.

61 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to
62 God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was
63 a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken.
64 And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds
65 were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors
66 were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing
67 that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do
68 not harm yourself, for we are all here." And the jailer called for lights
69 and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and
70 Silas. Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be
71 saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be
72 saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord
73 to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same
74 hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at
75 once, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house
76 and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire
77 household that he had believed in God.

78 But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, "Let
79 those men go." And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying,
80 "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and
81 go in peace." But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us publicly,
82 uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into
83 prison; and do they now throw us out secretly? No! Let them come
84 themselves and take us out." The police reported these words to the
85 magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were

What
observations do
you see in this
week's readings
that stood out to
you?

86 Roman citizens. So they came and apologized to them. And they took
87 them out and asked them to leave the city. So they went out of the
88 prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they
89 encouraged them and departed.

90 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia,
91 they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.
92 And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he
93 reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that
94 it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and
95 saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." And some
96 of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many
97 of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the Jews
98 were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed
99 a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason,
100 seeking to bring them out to the crowd. And when they could not find
101 them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city
102 authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside
103 down have come here also, and Jason has received them, and they are
104 all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another
105 king, Jesus." And the people and the city authorities were disturbed
106 when they heard these things. And when they had taken money as
107 security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

108 The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to
109 Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue.
110 Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they
111 received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily
112 to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, with
113 not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men. But when the
114 Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed

115 by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up
116 the crowds. Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to
117 the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there. Those who conducted
118 Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for
119 Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.

120 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was
121 provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he
122 reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and
123 in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.
124 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with
125 him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others
126 said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was
127 preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought
128 him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching
129 is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our
130 ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” Now all the
131 Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time
132 in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

133 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of
134 Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I
135 passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also
136 an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore
137 you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made
138 the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does
139 not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as
140 though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life
141 and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation
142 of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined
143 allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they

144 should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him.
145 Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for
146 “In him we live and move and have our being’;
147 as even some of your own poets have said,
148 “For we are indeed his offspring.’
149 Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being
150 is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and
151 imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now
152 he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a
153 day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom
154 he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising
155 him from the dead.”

156 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked.
157 But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” So Paul went out
158 from their midst. But some men joined him and believed, among
159 whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named
160 Damaris and others with them.

161 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew
162 named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his
163 wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave
164 Rome. And he went to see them, and because he was of the same trade
165 he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.
166 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to
167 persuade Jews and Greeks.

168 When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was
169 occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was
170 Jesus. And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his
171 garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am
172 innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” And he left there and

173 went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God.
174 His house was next door to the synagogue. Crispus, the ruler of the
175 synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household.
176 And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.
177 And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but
178 go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will
179 attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my
180 people." And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of
181 God among them.

182 But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united
183 attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal, saying, "This man
184 is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law." But when
185 Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were
186 a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason
187 to accept your complaint. But since it is a matter of questions about
188 words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be
189 a judge of these things." And he drove them from the tribunal. And
190 they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in
191 front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this.

192 After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the
193 brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At
194 Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow. And they came
195 to Ephesus, and he left them there, but he himself went into the
196 synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. When they asked him to stay
197 for a longer period, he declined. But on taking leave of them he said,
198 "I will return to you if God wills," and he set sail from Ephesus.

199 When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the
200 church, and then went down to Antioch.

NOTES OR THOUGHTS FOR WEEK 14 and 15:

Week 16 and 17

March 1 and 8

How long does Paul stay in each location?

1 After spending some time there, he departed and went from one place
2 to the next through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening
3 all the disciples.

4 Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus.
5 He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. He had been
6 instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke
7 and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew
8 only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue,
9 but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and
10 explained to him the way of God more accurately. And when he wished
11 to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the
12 disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those
13 who through grace had believed, for he powerfully refuted the Jews in
14 public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

15 And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed
16 through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found
17 some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit
18 when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that
19 there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you
20 baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John
21 baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe
22 in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this,
23 they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had
24 laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began
25 speaking in tongues and prophesying. There were about twelve men
26 in all.

27 And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly,

28 reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. But when
29 some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the
30 Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the
31 disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. This
32 continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the
33 word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

34 And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so
35 that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were
36 carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil
37 spirits came out of them. Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists
38 undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had
39 evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims."
40 Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. But
41 the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but
42 who are you?" And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on
43 them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled
44 out of that house naked and wounded. And this became known to all
45 the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon
46 them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. Also many of
47 those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their
48 practices. And a number of those who had practiced magic arts
49 brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And
50 they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand
51 pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord continued to increase and
52 prevail mightily.

53 Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through
54 Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been
55 there, I must also see Rome." And having sent into Macedonia two of
56 his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

57 About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the
58 Way. For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver
59 shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. These
60 he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said,
61 “Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. And you
62 see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this
63 Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that
64 gods made with hands are not gods. And there is danger not only that
65 this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of
66 the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she
67 may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and
68 the world worship.”

69 When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, “Great
70 is Artemis of the Ephesians!” So the city was filled with the confusion,
71 and they rushed together into the theater, dragging with them Gaius
72 and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul’s companions in travel.
73 But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would
74 not let him. And even some of the Asiarchs, who were friends of his,
75 sent to him and were urging him not to venture into the theater. Now
76 some cried out one thing, some another, for the assembly was in
77 confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come
78 together. Some of the crowd prompted Alexander, whom the Jews had
79 put forward. And Alexander, motioning with his hand, wanted to
80 make a defense to the crowd. But when they recognized that he was a
81 Jew, for about two hours they all cried out with one voice, “Great is
82 Artemis of the Ephesians!”

83 And when the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, “Men of
84 Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the
85 Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis, and of the sacred

List some of the miracles that take place on Paul’s 3rd missionary journey?

86 stone that fell from the sky? Seeing then that these things cannot be
87 denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. For you have
88 brought these men here who are neither sacrilegious nor blasphemers
89 of our goddess. If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen with him
90 have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, and there are
91 proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. But if you
92 seek anything further, it shall be settled in the regular assembly. For
93 we really are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there
94 is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion.” And when he
95 had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

96 After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after
97 encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia.
98 When he had gone through those regions and had given them much
99 encouragement, he came to Greece. There he spent three months, and
100 when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set
101 sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. Sopater the
102 Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians,
103 Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the
104 Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus. These went on ahead and were
105 waiting for us at Troas, but we sailed away from Philippi after the days
106 of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas,
107 where we stayed for seven days.

108 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to
109 break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next
110 day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight. There were many
111 lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. And a young man
112 named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul
113 talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the
114 third story and was taken up dead. But Paul went down and bent over

115 him, and taking him in his arms, said, “Do not be alarmed, for his life
116 is in him.” And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and
117 eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so
118 departed. And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little
119 comforted.

120 But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take
121 Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by
122 land. And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went to
123 Mitylene. And sailing from there we came the following day opposite
124 Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and the day after that we
125 went to Miletus. For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he
126 might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at
127 Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

128 Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the
129 church to come to him. And when they came to him, he said to them:

130 “You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from
131 the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility
132 and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots
133 of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything
134 that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to
135 house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward
136 God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold, I am
137 going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will
138 happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in
139 every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But I do not
140 account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may
141 finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord
142 Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I
143 know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming

What observations do you see in this week’s readings that stood out to you?

144 the kingdom will see my face again. Therefore I testify to you this day
145 that I am innocent of the blood of all, for I did not shrink from
146 declaring to you the whole counsel of God. Pay careful attention to
147 yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you
148 overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his
149 own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in
150 among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves
151 will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples
152 after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did
153 not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I
154 commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to
155 build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are
156 sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You
157 yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and
158 to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by
159 working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the
160 words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to
161 give than to receive.'"

162 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with
163 them all. And there was much weeping on the part of all; they
164 embraced Paul and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of
165 the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And
166 they accompanied him to the ship.

NOTES OR THOUGHTS FOR WEEK 16 and 17:

Week 18

March 15

1 And when we had parted from them and set sail, we came by a straight
2 course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara.
3 And having found a ship crossing to Phoenicia, we went aboard and
4 set sail. When we had come in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left
5 we sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre, for there the ship was to unload
6 its cargo. And having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for
7 seven days. And through the Spirit they were telling Paul not to go on
8 to Jerusalem. When our days there were ended, we departed and went
9 on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, accompanied us
10 until we were outside the city. And kneeling down on the beach, we
11 prayed and said farewell to one another. Then we went on board the
12 ship, and they returned home.

13 When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at
14 Ptolemais, and we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for one
15 day. On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we
16 entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven,
17 and stayed with him. He had four unmarried daughters, who
18 prophesied. While we were staying for many days, a prophet named
19 Agabus came down from Judea. And coming to us, he took Paul's belt
20 and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy
21 Spirit, "This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns
22 this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" When we
23 heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to
24 Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and
25 breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even
26 to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." And since he
27 would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord

How does the pronoun change in chapter 21?

What warning is Paul given and how many times?

28 be done.”

29 After these days we got ready and went up to Jerusalem. And some
30 of the disciples from Caesarea went with us, bringing us to the house
31 of Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we should lodge.

32 When we had come to Jerusalem, the brothers received us gladly.
33 On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders
34 were present. After greeting them, he related one by one the things
35 that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. And
36 when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, “You see,
37 brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who
38 have believed. They are all zealous for the law, and they have been told
39 about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to
40 forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk
41 according to our customs. What then is to be done? They will certainly
42 hear that you have come. Do therefore what we tell you. We have four
43 men who are under a vow; take these men and purify yourself along
44 with them and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads.
45 Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told
46 about you, but that you yourself also live in observance of the law. But
47 as for the Gentiles who have believed, we have sent a letter with our
48 judgment that they should abstain from what has been sacrificed to
49 idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from
50 sexual immorality.” Then Paul took the men, and the next day he
51 purified himself along with them and went into the temple, giving
52 notice when the days of purification would be fulfilled and the offering
53 presented for each one of them.

54 When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia,
55 seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands
56 on him, crying out, “Men of Israel, help! This is the man who is

57 teaching everyone everywhere against the people and the law and this
58 place. Moreover, he even brought Greeks into the temple and has
59 defiled this holy place.” For they had previously seen Trophimus the
60 Ephesian with him in the city, and they supposed that Paul had
61 brought him into the temple. Then all the city was stirred up, and the
62 people ran together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the
63 temple, and at once the gates were shut. And as they were seeking to
64 kill him, word came to the tribune of the cohort that all Jerusalem was
65 in confusion. He at once took soldiers and centurions and ran down
66 to them. And when they saw the tribune and the soldiers, they stopped
67 beating Paul. Then the tribune came up and arrested him and ordered
68 him to be bound with two chains. He inquired who he was and what
69 he had done. Some in the crowd were shouting one thing, some
70 another. And as he could not learn the facts because of the uproar, he
71 ordered him to be brought into the barracks. And when he came to the
72 steps, he was actually carried by the soldiers because of the violence
73 of the crowd, for the mob of the people followed, crying out, “Away
74 with him!”

What observations do you see in this week’s readings that stood out to you?

NOTES OR THOUGHTS FOR WEEK 18:

What observations do you see in this week's readings that stood out to you?

1 As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the
2 tribune, "May I say something to you?" And he said, "Do you know
3 Greek? Are you not the Egyptian, then, who recently stirred up a
4 revolt and led the four thousand men of the Assassins out into the
5 wilderness?" Paul replied, "I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen
6 of no obscure city. I beg you, permit me to speak to the people." And
7 when he had given him permission, Paul, standing on the steps,
8 motioned with his hand to the people. And when there was a great
9 hush, he addressed them in the Hebrew language, saying:

10 "Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before
11 you."

12 And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew
13 language, they became even more quiet. And he said:

14 "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city,
15 educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the
16 law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. I
17 persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison
18 both men and women, as the high priest and the whole council of
19 elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the
20 brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who
21 were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

22 "As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great
23 light from heaven suddenly shone around me. And I fell to the ground
24 and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting
25 me?' And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me, 'I am
26 Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.' Now those who were
27 with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who

28 was speaking to me. And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord
29 said to me, 'Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all
30 that is appointed for you to do.' And since I could not see because of
31 the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were
32 with me, and came into Damascus.

33 "And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken
34 of by all the Jews who lived there, came to me, and standing by me
35 said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I
36 received my sight and saw him. And he said, 'The God of our fathers
37 appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear
38 a voice from his mouth; for you will be a witness for him to everyone
39 of what you have seen and heard. And now why do you wait? Rise and
40 be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

41 "When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple,
42 I fell into a trance and saw him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out
43 of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony
44 about me.' And I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that in one
45 synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in
46 you. And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I
47 myself was standing by and approving and watching over the
48 garments of those who killed him.' And he said to me, 'Go, for I will
49 send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

50 Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices
51 and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not
52 be allowed to live." And as they were shouting and throwing off their
53 cloaks and flinging dust into the air, the tribune ordered him to be
54 brought into the barracks, saying that he should be examined by
55 flogging, to find out why they were shouting against him like this. But
56 when they had stretched him out for the whips, Paul said to the

57 centurion who was standing by, “Is it lawful for you to flog a man who
58 is a Roman citizen and uncondemned?” When the centurion heard
59 this, he went to the tribune and said to him, “What are you about to
60 do? For this man is a Roman citizen.” So the tribune came and said to
61 him, “Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?” And he said, “Yes.” The
62 tribune answered, “I bought this citizenship for a large sum.” Paul
63 said, “But I am a citizen by birth.” So those who were about to examine
64 him withdrew from him immediately, and the tribune also was afraid,
65 for he realized that Paul was a Roman citizen and that he had bound
66 him.

67 But on the next day, desiring to know the real reason why he was
68 being accused by the Jews, he unbound him and commanded the chief
69 priests and all the council to meet, and he brought Paul down and set
70 him before them.

71 And looking intently at the council, Paul said, “Brothers, I have
72 lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day.” And the
73 high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him
74 on the mouth. Then Paul said to him, “God is going to strike you, you
75 whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law,
76 and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?” Those who
77 stood by said, “Would you revile God’s high priest?” And Paul said, “I
78 did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written,
79 ‘You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.’”

80 Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the
81 other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Brothers, I am a Pharisee,
82 a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection
83 of the dead that I am on trial.” And when he had said this, a dissension
84 arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was
85 divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel,

What question
does Paul ask the
centurion and
what outcome
does it produce?

86 nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. Then a great
87 clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees' party stood up
88 and contended sharply, "We find nothing wrong in this man. What if
89 a spirit or an angel spoke to him?" And when the dissension became
90 violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them,
91 commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among
92 them by force and bring him into the barracks.

93 The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage,
94 for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you
95 must testify also in Rome."

96 When it was day, the Jews made a plot and bound themselves by an
97 oath neither to eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. There were more
98 than forty who made this conspiracy. They went to the chief priests
99 and elders and said, "We have strictly bound ourselves by an oath to
100 taste no food till we have killed Paul. Now therefore you, along with
101 the council, give notice to the tribune to bring him down to you, as
102 though you were going to determine his case more exactly. And we are
103 ready to kill him before he comes near."

104 Now the son of Paul's sister heard of their ambush, so he went and
105 entered the barracks and told Paul. Paul called one of the centurions
106 and said, "Take this young man to the tribune, for he has something
107 to tell him." So he took him and brought him to the tribune and said,
108 "Paul the prisoner called me and asked me to bring this young man to
109 you, as he has something to say to you." The tribune took him by the
110 hand, and going aside asked him privately, "What is it that you have
111 to tell me?" And he said, "The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring
112 Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to
113 inquire somewhat more closely about him. But do not be persuaded
114 by them, for more than forty of their men are lying in ambush for him,

115 who have bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till
116 they have killed him. And now they are ready, waiting for your
117 consent.” So the tribune dismissed the young man, charging him, “Tell
118 no one that you have informed me of these things.”

119 Then he called two of the centurions and said, “Get ready two
120 hundred soldiers, with seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen
121 to go as far as Caesarea at the third hour of the night. Also provide
122 mounts for Paul to ride and bring him safely to Felix the governor.”
123 And he wrote a letter to this effect:

124 “Claudius Lysias, to his Excellency the governor Felix, greetings.
125 This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them
126 when I came upon them with the soldiers and rescued him, having
127 learned that he was a Roman citizen. And desiring to know the charge
128 for which they were accusing him, I brought him down to their
129 council. I found that he was being accused about questions of their
130 law, but charged with nothing deserving death or imprisonment. And
131 when it was disclosed to me that there would be a plot against the
132 man, I sent him to you at once, ordering his accusers also to state
133 before you what they have against him.”

134 So the soldiers, according to their instructions, took Paul and
135 brought him by night to Antipatris. And on the next day they returned
136 to the barracks, letting the horsemen go on with him. When they had
137 come to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they
138 presented Paul also before him. On reading the letter, he asked what
139 province he was from. And when he learned that he was from Cilicia,
140 he said, “I will give you a hearing when your accusers arrive.” And he
141 commanded him to be guarded in Herod’s praetorium.

142 And after five days the high priest Ananias came down with some
143 elders and a spokesman, one Tertullus. They laid before the governor

144 their case against Paul. And when he had been summoned, Tertullus
145 began to accuse him, saying:

146 “Since through you we enjoy much peace, and since by your
147 foresight, most excellent Felix, reforms are being made for this
148 nation, in every way and everywhere we accept this with all
149 gratitude. But, to detain you no further, I beg you in your kindness to
150 hear us briefly. For we have found this man a plague, one who stirs
151 up riots among all the Jews throughout the world and is a ringleader
152 of the sect of the Nazarenes. He even tried to profane the temple, but
153 we seized him. By examining him yourself you will be able to find out
154 from him about everything of which we accuse him.”

155 The Jews also joined in the charge, affirming that all these things
156 were so.

157 And when the governor had nodded to him to speak, Paul replied:

158 “Knowing that for many years you have been a judge over this
159 nation, I cheerfully make my defense. You can verify that it is not
160 more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem, and
161 they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd,
162 either in the temple or in the synagogues or in the city. Neither can
163 they prove to you what they now bring up against me. But this I
164 confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I
165 worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the
166 Law and written in the Prophets, having a hope in God, which these
167 men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the
168 just and the unjust. So I always take pains to have a clear conscience
169 toward both God and man. Now after several years I came to bring
170 alms to my nation and to present offerings. While I was doing this,
171 they found me purified in the temple, without any crowd or tumult.
172 But some Jews from Asia— they ought to be here before you and to

173 make an accusation, should they have anything against me. Or else
174 let these men themselves say what wrongdoing they found when I
175 stood before the council, other than this one thing that I cried out
176 while standing among them: ‘It is with respect to the resurrection of
177 the dead that I am on trial before you this day.’”

What does Paul say he is on trial for?

178 But Felix, having a rather accurate knowledge of the Way, put them
179 off, saying, “When Lysias the tribune comes down, I will decide your
180 case.” Then he gave orders to the centurion that he should be kept in
181 custody but have some liberty, and that none of his friends should be
182 prevented from attending to his needs.

183 After some days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish,
184 and he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus.
185 And as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the
186 coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, “Go away for the
187 present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you.” At the same
188 time he hoped that money would be given him by Paul. So he sent for
189 him often and conversed with him. When two years had elapsed, Felix
190 was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And desiring to do the Jews a favor,
191 Felix left Paul in prison.

How long was Paul in prison in Caesarea (24:27)?

NOTES OR THOUGHTS FOR WEEK 19:

1 Now three days after Festus had arrived in the province, he went up
2 to Jerusalem from Caesarea. And the chief priests and the principal
3 men of the Jews laid out their case against Paul, and they urged him,
4 asking as a favor against Paul that he summon him to Jerusalem—
5 because they were planning an ambush to kill him on the way. Festus
6 replied that Paul was being kept at Caesarea and that he himself
7 intended to go there shortly. “So,” said he, “let the men of authority
8 among you go down with me, and if there is anything wrong about the
9 man, let them bring charges against him.”

10 After he stayed among them not more than eight or ten days, he
11 went down to Caesarea. And the next day he took his seat on the
12 tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought. When he had arrived, the
13 Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing
14 many and serious charges against him that they could not prove. Paul
15 argued in his defense, “Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against
16 the temple, nor against Caesar have I committed any offense.” But
17 Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, “Do you wish to
18 go up to Jerusalem and there be tried on these charges before me?”
19 But Paul said, “I am standing before Caesar’s tribunal, where I ought
20 to be tried. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you yourself know
21 very well. If then I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything for
22 which I deserve to die, I do not seek to escape death. But if there is
23 nothing to their charges against me, no one can give me up to them. I
24 appeal to Caesar.” Then Festus, when he had conferred with his
25 council, answered, “To Caesar you have appealed; to Caesar you shall
26 go.”

27 Now when some days had passed, Agrippa the king and Bernice

28 arrived at Caesarea and greeted Festus. And as they stayed there
29 many days, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying, "There is a
30 man left prisoner by Felix, and when I was at Jerusalem, the chief
31 priests and the elders of the Jews laid out their case against him,
32 asking for a sentence of condemnation against him. I answered them
33 that it was not the custom of the Romans to give up anyone before the
34 accused met the accusers face to face and had opportunity to make his
35 defense concerning the charge laid against him. So when they came
36 together here, I made no delay, but on the next day took my seat on
37 the tribunal and ordered the man to be brought. When the accusers
38 stood up, they brought no charge in his case of such evils as I
39 supposed. Rather they had certain points of dispute with him about
40 their own religion and about a certain Jesus, who was dead, but whom
41 Paul asserted to be alive. Being at a loss how to investigate these
42 questions, I asked whether he wanted to go to Jerusalem and be tried
43 there regarding them. But when Paul had appealed to be kept in
44 custody for the decision of the emperor, I ordered him to be held until
45 I could send him to Caesar." Then Agrippa said to Festus, "I would like
46 to hear the man myself." "Tomorrow," said he, "you will hear him."

47 So on the next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp, and
48 they entered the audience hall with the military tribunes and the
49 prominent men of the city. Then, at the command of Festus, Paul was
50 brought in. And Festus said, "King Agrippa and all who are present
51 with us, you see this man about whom the whole Jewish people
52 petitioned me, both in Jerusalem and here, shouting that he ought not
53 to live any longer. But I found that he had done nothing deserving
54 death. And as he himself appealed to the emperor, I decided to go
55 ahead and send him. But I have nothing definite to write to my lord
56 about him. Therefore I have brought him before you all, and especially

What reason has
Festus brought
Paul before
Agrippa?

57 before you, King Agrippa, so that, after we have examined him, I may
58 have something to write. For it seems to me unreasonable, in sending
59 a prisoner, not to indicate the charges against him.”

60 So Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak for
61 yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense:

62 “I consider myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am
63 going to make my defense today against all the accusations of the
64 Jews, especially because you are familiar with all the customs and
65 controversies of the Jews. Therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently.

66 “My manner of life from my youth, spent from the beginning among
67 my own nation and in Jerusalem, is known by all the Jews. They have
68 known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that according to
69 the strictest party of our religion I have lived as a Pharisee. And now
70 I stand here on trial because of my hope in the promise made by God
71 to our fathers, to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they
72 earnestly worship night and day. And for this hope I am accused by
73 Jews, O king! Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God
74 raises the dead?

75 “I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing
76 the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only
77 locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from
78 the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote
79 against them. And I punished them often in all the synagogues and
80 tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I
81 persecuted them even to foreign cities.

82 “In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and
83 commission of the chief priests. At midday, O king, I saw on the way
84 a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and
85 those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the

What conclusion
is drawn for the
reason of Paul's
trial?

86 ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul,
87 Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against
88 the goads.’ And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am
89 Jesus whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet,
90 for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant
91 and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in
92 which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from
93 the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that
94 they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to
95 God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those
96 who are sanctified by faith in me.’

97 “Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly
98 vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and
99 throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they
100 should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their
101 repentance. For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried
102 to kill me. To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and
103 so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but
104 what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: that the Christ
105 must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would
106 proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.”

107 And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a
108 loud voice, “Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is
109 driving you out of your mind.” But Paul said, “I am not out of my mind,
110 most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words. For
111 the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am
112 persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this
113 has not been done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you believe the
114 prophets? I know that you believe.” And Agrippa said to Paul, “In a

How many
times does Paul
repeat his
conversion story
in the book of
Acts?

115 short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?” And Paul said,
116 “Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all
117 who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these
118 chains.”

119 Then the king rose, and the governor and Bernice and those who
120 were sitting with them. And when they had withdrawn, they said to
121 one another, “This man is doing nothing to deserve death or
122 imprisonment.” And Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have
123 been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

What
observations
do you see in
this week’s
readings that
stood out to
you?

NOTES OR THOUGHTS FOR WEEK 20:

1 And when it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they delivered
2 Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan Cohort
3 named Julius. And embarking in a ship of Adramyttium, which was
4 about to sail to the ports along the coast of Asia, we put to sea,
5 accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica. The
6 next day we put in at Sidon. And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave
7 him leave to go to his friends and be cared for. And putting out to sea
8 from there we sailed under the lee of Cyprus, because the winds were
9 against us. And when we had sailed across the open sea along the coast
10 of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra in Lycia. There the
11 centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing for Italy and put us on
12 board. We sailed slowly for a number of days and arrived with
13 difficulty off Cnidus, and as the wind did not allow us to go farther, we
14 sailed under the lee of Crete off Salmone. Coasting along it with
15 difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near which was the
16 city of Lasea.

17 Since much time had passed, and the voyage was now dangerous
18 because even the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, saying,
19 “Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not
20 only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives.” But the centurion
21 paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to
22 what Paul said. And because the harbor was not suitable to spend the
23 winter in, the majority decided to put out to sea from there, on the
24 chance that somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete,
25 facing both southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there.

26 Now when the south wind blew gently, supposing that they had
27 obtained their purpose, they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete,

28 close to the shore. But soon a tempestuous wind, called the
29 northeaster, struck down from the land. And when the ship was
30 caught and could not face the wind, we gave way to it and were driven
31 along. Running under the lee of a small island called Cauda, we
32 managed with difficulty to secure the ship's boat. After hoisting it up,
33 they used supports to undergird the ship. Then, fearing that they
34 would run aground on the Syrtis, they lowered the gear, and thus they
35 were driven along. Since we were violently storm-tossed, they began
36 the next day to jettison the cargo. And on the third day they threw the
37 ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. When neither sun nor
38 stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope
39 of our being saved was at last abandoned.

40 Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up
41 among them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me and not
42 have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. Yet now I
43 urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but
44 only of the ship. For this very night there stood before me an angel of
45 the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, and he said, 'Do not
46 be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has
47 granted you all those who sail with you.' So take heart, men, for I have
48 faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. But we must run
49 aground on some island."

50 When the fourteenth night had come, as we were being driven
51 across the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors suspected that they
52 were nearing land. So they took a sounding and found twenty fathoms.
53 A little farther on they took a sounding again and found fifteen
54 fathoms. And fearing that we might run on the rocks, they let down
55 four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come. And as the
56 sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, and had lowered the

What
progression of
emotion takes
places through
the event of the
Storm at Sea?

57 ship's boat into the sea under pretense of laying out anchors from the
58 bow, Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men
59 stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." Then the soldiers cut away the
60 ropes of the ship's boat and let it go.

61 As day was about to dawn, Paul urged them all to take some food,
62 saying, "Today is the fourteenth day that you have continued in
63 suspense and without food, having taken nothing. Therefore I urge
64 you to take some food. For it will give you strength, for not a hair is to
65 perish from the head of any of you." And when he had said these
66 things, he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all
67 he broke it and began to eat. Then they all were encouraged and ate
68 some food themselves. (We were in all 276 persons in the ship.) And
69 when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, throwing out
70 the wheat into the sea.

71 Now when it was day, they did not recognize the land, but they
72 noticed a bay with a beach, on which they planned if possible to run
73 the ship ashore. So they cast off the anchors and left them in the sea,
74 at the same time loosening the ropes that tied the rudders. Then
75 hoisting the foresail to the wind they made for the beach. But striking
76 a reef, they ran the vessel aground. The bow stuck and remained
77 immovable, and the stern was being broken up by the surf. The
78 soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any should swim away and
79 escape. But the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from
80 carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump
81 overboard first and make for the land, and the rest on planks or on
82 pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.

83 After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the
84 island was called Malta. The native people showed us unusual
85 kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had

86 begun to rain and was cold. When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks
87 and put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and
88 fastened on his hand. When the native people saw the creature
89 hanging from his hand, they said to one another, “No doubt this man
90 is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not
91 allowed him to live.” He, however, shook off the creature into the fire
92 and suffered no harm. They were waiting for him to swell up or
93 suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited a long time and
94 saw no misfortune come to him, they changed their minds and said
95 that he was a god.

What miracle
happened in
Malta (28:1-10)?

96 Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the
97 chief man of the island, named Publius, who received us and
98 entertained us hospitably for three days. It happened that the father
99 of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. And Paul visited him and
100 prayed, and putting his hands on him, healed him. And when this had
101 taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also
102 came and were cured. They also honored us greatly, and when we were
103 about to sail, they put on board whatever we needed.

104 After three months we set sail in a ship that had wintered in the
105 island, a ship of Alexandria, with the twin gods as a figurehead.
106 Putting in at Syracuse, we stayed there for three days. And from there
107 we made a circuit and arrived at Rhegium. And after one day a south
108 wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli. There we
109 found brothers and were invited to stay with them for seven days. And
110 so we came to Rome. And the brothers there, when they heard about
111 us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us.
112 On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage. And when we
113 came into Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier
114 who guarded him.

115 After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews, and
116 when they had gathered, he said to them, “Brothers, though I had
117 done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I
118 was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the
119 Romans. When they had examined me, they wished to set me at
120 liberty, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case.
121 But because the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar—
122 though I had no charge to bring against my nation. For this reason,
123 therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is
124 because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain.” And they
125 said to him, “We have received no letters from Judea about you, and
126 none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken any evil
127 about you. But we desire to hear from you what your views are, for
128 with regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against.”

129 When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his
130 lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded
131 to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them
132 about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. And
133 some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved. And
134 disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made
135 one statement: “The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers
136 through Isaiah the prophet:

137 “Go to this people, and say,
138 “You will indeed hear but never understand,
139 and you will indeed see but never perceive.”
140 For this people’s heart has grown dull,
141 and with their ears they can barely hear,
142 and their eyes they have closed;
143 lest they should see with their eyes

What
observations do
you see in this
week’s readings
that stood out to
you?

144 and hear with their ears
145 and understand with their heart
146 and turn, and I would heal them.’
147 Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been
148 sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.”
149 He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed
150 all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching
151 about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

How does the
book of Acts
end?

NOTES OR THOUGHTS FOR WEEK 21: