



BIBLE STUDY

NEW BIRTH BAPTIST CHURCH, COFI

BISHOP VICTOR T. CURRY, FOUNDING SENIOR PASTOR/TEACHER

2300 NW 135TH STREET, MIAMI, FL 33167

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The Book of Acts

“Can I Get a Witness- The Gospel To The Ends Of the Earth”

ACTS 17: 1-9

“THE ARRIVAL OF THE GOSPEL IN THESSALONICA”

A NEW CHURCH; A CITY RIOT;

A SHORT MINISTRY

A NEW CHURCH

ACTS 17:1-4

1. PAUL, SILAS AND TIMOTHY TRAVELED FROM PHILLIPI AFTER BEING FIERCELY “ROUGHED UP,” PASSING THROUGH THE CITIES OF AMPHILPOLIS AND APPOLLONIA TO THESSALONICA, ABOUT A 100 MILE WALK ON THE VIA EGNATIA.

2. THE ROMAN EMPIRE UNDER ALEXANDER THE GREAT WAS VAST. IT STRETCHED FROM ASIA INCLUDING INDIA TO MACEDONIA (PRESENT DAY EUROPE) AFTER HIS DEATH, CASSANDER (A GENERAL UNDER ALEXANDER)

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FOUGHT AND GAINED CONTROL OF MACEDONIA, GIVING THESSALONICA IT NAME AND MAKING IT THE COUNTRY'S CAPITOL.

3. PAUL AND SILAS KNEW THERE WAS A JEWISH SYNAGOGUE IN THESSALONICA, SO THEY DID THEIR USUAL; WENT THERE AND PRESENTED THE GOSPEL FOR THREE SABBATH DAYS OR THREE WEEKS, RESULTING IN CONFLICT.

4. JEALOUSY AROSE AMONG THE RELIGIOUS JEWS BRINGING STRONG OPPOSITION TOWARDS PAUL, WHO COURAGOUSLY CONTINUED TO PREACH THE GOSPEL RESULTING IN A GREAT CONVERSION OF MANY THESSALONIANS TO CHRISTIANITY, BIRTHING THE CHURCH AT THESSALONICA.

A RIOT

ACTS 17:5-8

5. THESSALONICA WAS GOVERNED UNDER ROMAN RULE; UNREST WAS FROWNED UPON AND ABSOLUTELY NOT TOLERATED WITHIN THE JEWISH POPULATION.

6. FIERCE OPPOSITION/VIOLENCE WAS DIRECTED TOWARDS THOSE THAT CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY, AND THOSE THAT OFFERED HOSPITALITY TO PAUL AND COMPANY BY THE MOB THE JEALOUS JEWS HAD HIRED.

7. LOOKING FOR PAUL AND COMPANY, THIS HIRED MOB ATTACKED JASON'S HOUSE. NOT FINDING THEM, A RIOT ERUPTED IN THE CITY; ENDING WITH THE ARREST OF JASON AND OTHER CONVERTS.

A SHORT MINISTRY

ACTS 17:9

8. PAUL USUALLY SPENT A YEAR OR TWO WITH A NEW CHURCH, HELPING TO BUILD UP THEIR SPIRITUAL MUSCLES AND APPOINTING LEADERS FOR THE CHURCH. PAUL WAS FORCED OUT OF THESSALONICA BY THIS UPRISING, NEVER TO VISIT AGAIN.

9. THE AIM OF THE TESSALONIAN JEWS? SILENCE THE PROCLAMATION OF ANOTHER KING, THE ONE CALLED JESUS – DIDN'T HAPPEN! THE NEW CHURCH AT THESSALONICA FLORISHED EVEN IN THE MIST OF SEVERE OPPOSITION.

TERMINOLOGY

JEALOUSY (GEN 37:11)_____

ENVY (JAMES 3:16)_____

HOSPITALITY (ROM 2:13)_____