

## **This week's reading:**

**May 21:** Acts 8 – 10

**May 22:** Acts 11 – 14

**May 23:** Acts 15 – 17

**May 24:** Acts 18 – 21

**May 25:** Acts 22 – 24

**May 26:** Acts 25 – 28

**May 27:** 1 Chronicles 1 – 4

**May 28:** 1 Chronicles 5 – 7

## **Summary:**

**May 21:** Acts 8 – 10

Acts 8 begins with Saul's persecution leading to evangelism as the church spreads. Philip evangelizes in Samaria and the Ethiopian eunuch. **(Note:** God uses the threats of Saul now and later. For now, He uses the work of persecution to disperse the apostles and evangelists of the church; causing the message to spread beyond Jerusalem and Israel.)

Acts 9 presents the conversion of Saul and the ministry of Peter. **(Note:** Proof of the power of God to overcome sin is the conversion of Saul/Paul. This persecutor was the perfect vessel to bring the Gospel to the Gentile world, and God would use Paul to do just that.)

Acts 10 sends the Gospel and the Holy Spirit to even the Gentiles as Peter preaches to Cornelius. **(Note:** Before Paul is used of God for anything; the "mouthpiece of the Apostles", Peter brings the Gospel beyond Israel to a Gentile. The use of the vision of food and the bringing of salvation and the Holy Spirit to those who were not Israel was a powerful example of the extent of God's work and the beginning of the fulfillment of the promise of blessing to the nations of Genesis 12.)

**May 22:** Acts 11 – 14

Acts 11 sees Peter's reports of the Spirit on the move and the Gospel spreading.

**(Note:** The spread of the Gospel beyond Israel truly begins in earnest here.)

Acts 12 sees Peter arrested by Herod and released by God. **(Note:** The early church needed her eyewitnesses, and Peter was the most vocal. The testimony of the New Testament is not written yet, so the witnesses are vital; hence God's protection of them. Some 30 years later, after the bulk of the N.T. is written, many of these witnesses will become martyrs and die rather than renounce Christ.)

Acts 13 & 14 begin Paul's missionary work as he embarks on his 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey. **(Note:** The Gospel is now "global" as Paul's journey's spread the message and plant churches throughout the Roman Empire.)

**May 23:** Acts 15 – 17

Acts 15 gives the Jerusalem council which refutes the false Judaizers of the early church and concludes with the beginning of Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey. **(Note:** This council is a giant in church history because it answered the question of the relationship between the Christian and the Old Testament. Was being Israel a precursor to salvation? This council said no, and rightly saw the Law as not a means of being saved.)

Acts 16 sees Paul enter into Greece where he preaches and is imprisoned. **(Note:** The Gospel works even in prison as this chapter shows. The power of God to convert the lost and rescue the sinner reaches past everything we can imagine; and is why our commission is to bring the Gospel everywhere.)

Acts 17 continues Paul's travels and ministry.

**May 24:** Acts 18 – 21

Acts 18 sees Paul arrive in Corinth before going to Antioch where the 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey will begin.

Acts 19 – 21 see Paul travel through most of the areas he has been on his way to Jerusalem where he is seized by Temple authorities.

**May 25:** Acts 22 – 24

Acts 22 – 23 see Paul defending himself and the Gospel before the Jewish authorities as he is guarded by the Romans. **(Note:** This unlikely turn of events is a testimony to the power of God as He is preserving Paul to accomplish the work God has laid out.)

Acts 24 begins Paul's work before the ruling elite of Israel.

**May 26:** Acts 25 – 28

Acts 25 – 26 continues Paul before the "royalty". **(Note:** By this point, Paul has been before every manner of society from high to low, and has faithfully delivered the message of Christ.)

Acts 27 begins Paul's trip to Rome.

Acts 28 concludes the account of the book as Paul is in Rome preaching and teaching.

**May 27:** 1 Chronicles 1 – 4

1 Chronicles 1 – 4 are a genealogy of the royal line of Judah. **(Note:** The lack of fairy-tale elements. The Bible is a book of history, a history of God and His work for His people.)