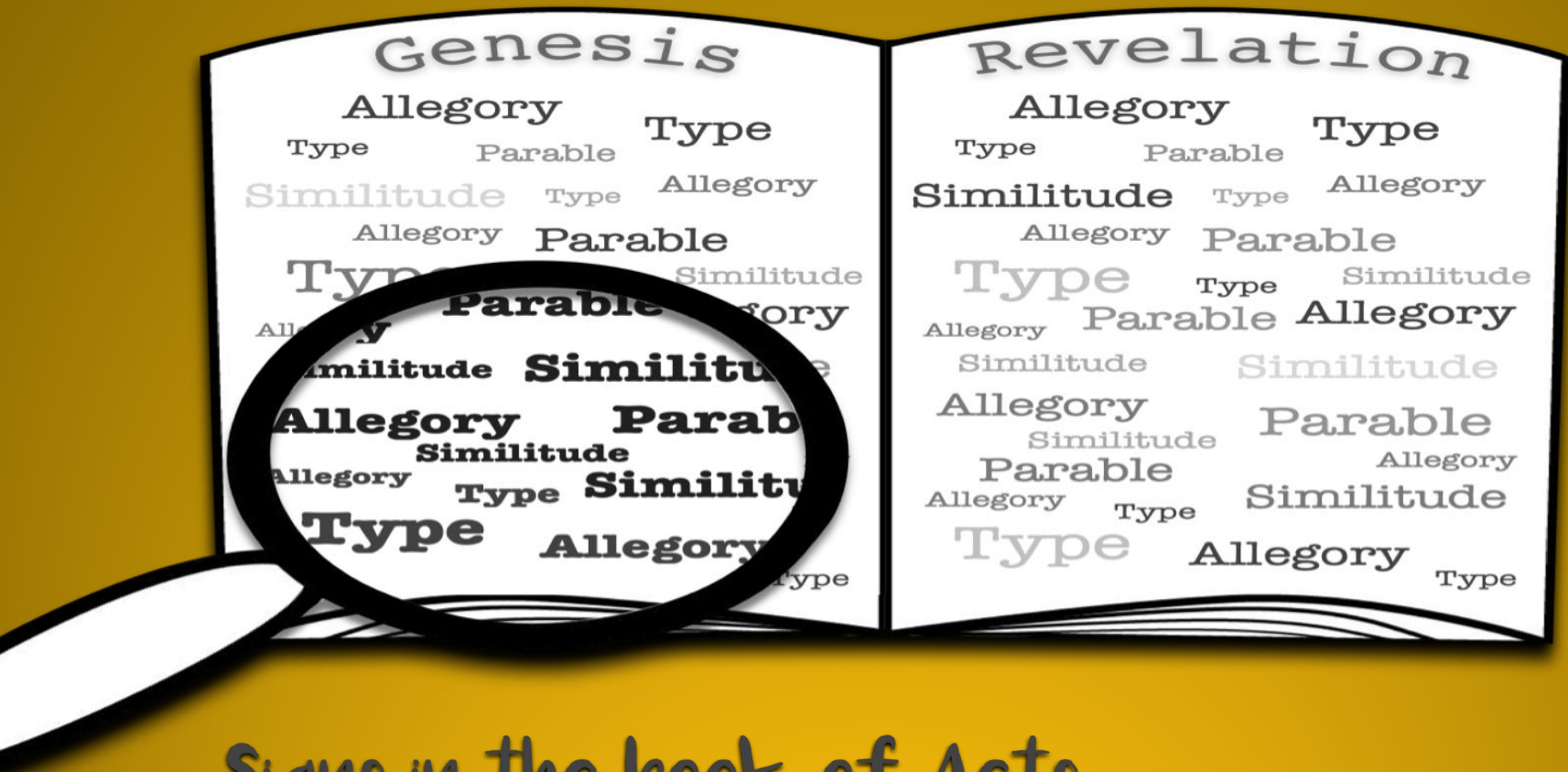


Reasoning out of the Scriptures by Allegory & Type



Signs in the book of Acts

Study 4 Power over Sin and Death

Class 4—Power over Sin & Death (READ: Act 14:1-18)

In Acts, the apostles were a “Witnesses” of Jesus’ RESURRECTION, and the “signs” were a demonstration of the efficacy of that doctrine.

Act 3:14-15 “Ye denied the Holy One...and killed THE PRINCE OF LIFE, whom *God hath* **RAISED FROM THE DEAD; WHEREOF WE ARE WITNESSES**”

Act 4:33 And with great power **GAVE THE APOSTLES WITNESS OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS:** and great grace was upon them all”

Act 5:30-32 “The God of our fathers **RAISED UP JESUS**, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree...And **WE ARE HIS WITNESSES OF THESE THINGS; AND SO IS ALSO THE HOLY SPIRIT**”

Act 10:40-41 “**GOD RAISED UP THE THIRD DAY**, and shewed him openly; Not to all the people, but **UNTO WITNESSES** chosen before of God, *even to us*”

Act 13:30-31 “But **GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD:** And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, **WHO ARE HIS WITNESSES** unto the people”

PETER—Jews—Jerusalem

Acts 1-12 Jews **Judaism**

Chp 2—Peter's 1st Address

Chp 3—Lame man healed

Chp 8—Simon the sorcerer

Chp 8—Laying on of hands

Chp 10—Peter worshipped

Chp 9—Tabitha raised

Chp 12—Peter imprisoned

PAUL—Gentiles—Antioch

Acts 13-28 Gentiles **Idolatry**

Chp 13—Paul's 1st Address

Chp 14—Lame man healed

Chp 13—Elymas the sorcerer

Chp 19—Laying on of hands

Chp 14—Paul worshipped

Chp 20—Eutychus raised

Chp 28—Paul imprisoned

- 1Cor 12:2 “Ye know that **YE WERE GENTILES, CARRIED AWAY UNTO THESE DUMB IDOLS**, even as ye were led...”
- 1The 1:9-10 “**YE TURNED TO GOD FROM IDOLS TO SERVE THE LIVING AND TRUE GOD**; And to wait for his Son from heaven, **WHOM HE RAISED FROM THE DEAD**, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come”
- Gal 4:8 “Howbeit then, **WHEN YE KNEW NOT GOD, YE DID SERVICE UNTO THEM WHICH BY NATURE ARE NO GODS...**”

Act 14:8 And there sat a certain man at Lystra, ***IMPOTENT** in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who **NEVER HAD WALKED:** **trans. "impossible" and "not possible"*

Lystra—appears 6x. Thayer *"ransom."* Natural man of flesh, redeemed **From his mother's womb**—natural man "never" walks "upright" (Col 3:6-7; Joh 3:1-6). Both **Jew** (Act 3-5) & **Gentile** under sin (Rom 3).

Jer 10:23-24 "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that **WALKETH** to direct his steps. O LORD, CORRECT ME"

Psa 37:23 "The steps of a man are ordered by the LORD" (Pro 20:24)

See notes: Class 1—lame man

Eph 2:1-6 "You who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye **WALKED** according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience...But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved) And hath **RAISED US UP** together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus"

Act 14:9 The same ***HEARD** PAUL SPEAK: who stedfastly beholding him, and *perceiving that he had faith to be healed,*
Act 14:10 Said with a *loud voice,* **STAND UPRIGHT** on thy feet. And he *leaped and walked.* ***Gk. “understand, perceive, attend to”**

Faith to be healed—the ability of the Word to heal flesh is predicted upon our own conviction of faith (Mat 8:10; 9:22-29; 15:28 cp. 13:58)

Loud voice—command to be baptized (Act 10:48; Luk 17:15; 19:37; 23:46)

Stand upright—word “**stand**” is same Gk. used for resurrection (“*rose again*” from dead 1The 4:14-16), and also to “**ARISE**” in a newness of life in Christ (Eph 5:14). The call is to do so “**upright.**” The expression is not physical, but figurative: “make **STRAIGHT** the paths of your feet” (Heb 12:13). —**NOTE process: hear, understand, stand upright, walk**

Rom 6:4 “*like Christ was raised up... even so we also should walk in a newness of life*” **Rom 8:1-4** “*walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit*”

Walked—conduct of a new man raised up from the flesh (Rom 6).

“*Walk not as other Gentiles walk in the vanity of their minds*”... “*Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye were called*”... “*Walk as children of light*” (Eph 1:1,17; 5:8)... “*Walk worthy of the Lord*” (Col 1:10).

Act 14:11 And when the people saw what Paul had done, *they lifted up their voices, saying* **IN THE SPEECH OF Lycaonia, THE GODS ARE COME DOWN TO US IN THE LIKENESS OF MEN.**

Act 14:12 And they called Barnabas, **JUPITER**; and Paul, **MERCURIUS**, because he was the chief ***SPEAKER**. **dif. from "teacher"*

Act 14:13 Then the *priest* of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done *sacrifice* with the people. **Idol-speech changes Truth*

Speech of Lycaonia—different than Paul's "speech" (v.9 *Gk. teach, preach*): unscriptural language of false religion (Gen 11; Deu 28:49; 1Cor 14:21)

"We speak wisdom among them that are perfect; yet not the wisdom of this world"—1Cor 2:6-7 (*immortal soul, trinity, purgatory*)

Gods...in the likeness of men—Gentile problem: exalting men into the heavens ("stars" "idols"), glorifying flesh (2The 2:4). *Warning*—1Cor 3:1-5

Jupiter—Zeus. God of thunder. **Mercurius**—herald of the gods.

Priest, Sacrifice—false religion imitates the Truth, but blends idolatry (1Sam 5:5; 6:2; 1Kin 18:25-26; Isa 37:38; Dan 5:23).

Lycaonia—*Gk. root "wolf"*—*false teachers (Mat 7:15; Act 20:29)!!!*

Mat 7:15 “Beware of *false prophets*, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are *ravening wolves*”

Act 20:29 “After my departing shall *grievous wolves* enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall *men arise, speaking perverse things*, to draw away disciples after them”

- **The mark of apostasy is what it teaches: “great swelling words” (2Pet 2:18; Jude 1:15-16).**

Dan 7:8-25 “I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn... and, behold, in this horn were eyes *like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things*... I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake... that horn that had eyes, and *a mouth that spake very great things*, whose look was more stout than his fellows. I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them... *And he shall speak great words against the most High*”

Rev 13:5 “And there was given unto him *a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies*”

Two systems of the Apocalypse: **Truth** and **Counterfeit**

- Truth marked by “seven” (1:20)—Apostasy by “six” (13:18)
- Saints like unto virgin (14:4)—Apostasy like unto harlot (17:5)
- Christ a Lamb (14:1)—Apostasy a Lamb with a horn (13:11)
- Christ rides horse (19:11)—Apostasy rides beast (17:3)
- Christ wears many crowns (19:12)—Apostasy the same (13:11)
- Saints worship Lamb (4-5)—Apostasy worship beast (13:4)
- Saints written in forehead (14:1)—Apostasy the same (13:16)
- Truth redeems multitudes (5:9)—Apostasy rules same (17:15)

1Joh 4:5-6 “*They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. HEREBY KNOW WE THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, AND THE SPIRIT OF ERROR*”

John 18:37 “*Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice*”

John 8:47 “*He that is of God heareth God's words*”

Lion, Ox, Eagle, Man



Act 14:14 When the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, *they rent their clothes*, and ran in among the people, crying out,

Act 14:15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? **WE ALSO ARE MEN OF LIKE PASSIONS WITH YOU**, and preach unto you that ye should *turn from these vanities unto the *living God*, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein* 1The 1:9

Rent their clothes—Men of Truth reject personal exaltation that alone belongs to God (Gen 41:16; Act 3:12; Rev 22:8-9). Jesus demanded all of his teaching, authority and works were of God (Joh 5:19; 5:30; 6:38; 8:28, 54; 12:49). *Truth leads men to “glory God” (Mat 9:8; 15:31; Act 4:21; 11:18)*

➤ Act 3:12 “(Peter) Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?” **Cornelius rebuked for falling down before him (Act 10:25-26)**

Daniel said: “As for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living”—Dan 2:30

Joseph said: “It is not in me, God shall give Pharaoh an answer”—Gen 41:16

○ **CONTRAST TO FALSE RELIGION: (2The 2:4; Act 20:30; 5:36-37 cf. 1Cor 1:12-15).**

Vanities—*entirely worthless*. Applies to false religion (Deu 32:21; 1Kin 16:13, 26; Isa 44:9; Jer 8:19; Rom 1:21-23, Eph 4:17; Mat 15:9; 1Cor 15:14-17).

Act 14:16 Who in times past *suffered all nations* to walk in their own ways. *(time of Gentile enlightenment: Acts 17:22-30)*

Act 14:17 Nevertheless he **LEFT NOT HIMSELF WITHOUT WITNESS**, in that he did good, and gave us **RAIN FROM HEAVEN**, and *fruitful seasons*, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

Act 14:18 And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them.

Witness, Rain—from heaven, rain is a “witness” of God’s goodness (Act 17:27-28; Rom 1:19-20; Mat 5:45; Lev 26:4; Deu 11:14; 28:12; 1Kin 18:1; Job 5:10).

Jer 14:22 “Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? art not thou he, O LORD”

- **Jupiter or Yahweh**—the “god of thunder” was particularly worshipped for “rain in time of drought.” Thus, Paul calls Yahweh the “Living God.”
- **Rain**—reps the Word of God and Doctrine (Deu 32:2; Psa 68:8-11; Isa 55:10-11; *Joel 2:23 teacher of righteousness, the latter rain*). This is a metaphor for the “witness” of the Word of God!
- **Drought**—reps spiritually barren (Amos 8:11-12; 1Kin 8:35-36).

As a “living God” (v.15), Yahweh fills His earth with “life”

Act 14:19 And there came thither *certain* JEWS from Antioch and **ICONIUM**, who *persuaded the people*, and, having **STONED** Paul, *drew him out of the city*, supposing he had been **DEAD**.
Act 14:20 Howbeit, *as the disciples stood round about him*, he **ROSE UP**, and *came into the city*: and the next day he **DEPARTED** with Barnabas to Derbe. **Enacting the doctrine of Christ's death/raised**

Jews, persuaded the people—in the image of Christ (Mat 27:20-25).

Drew out of the city—after the pattern of the Lord (Heb 13:12-13).

Disciples stood round about—“encircle” fellowship. Thus, the benefit of the Lord's death and resurrection for benefit of others (Rom 5:10).

Rose up—Gk. resurrection (Mat 17:9; 20:19; Luk 24:46; Acts 2:24).

Came into the city—like Christ, returns to Jerusalem (Luk 19:43-44).

Departed—like Christ (Luk 24:51). **WITNESS of resurrection to Gentiles:**

2Cor 4:10-12 “Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, *that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.*

For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, *that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.*

SO THEN DEATH WORKETH IN US, BUT LIFE IN YOU”

Act 14:21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had TAUGHT MANY, **THEY RETURNED AGAIN TO LYSTRA**, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

Act 14:22 *Confirming the souls of the disciples*, and exhorting them to CONTINUE IN THE FAITH, and that we must *through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God*.

Taught many—mg. “made many disciples.” Mat 28:19; to become followers of Christ (Mat 8:23). The purpose of teaching (Acts 20:30).

Confirming the souls—along with proclamation of the Truth, brethren must “strengthen” the ecclesia (Acts 15:32-36; 15:41; 18:23; 1Cor 1:8; 1The 3:1-4, 13; 1Pet 5:10; Rev 3:1-2). Milk must progress to meat!

1Cor 14—prophecy (edifying ecclesia) and tongues (teaching Truth to unenlightened). The former being greater than the latter (1Cor 14:1-5)

- Acts 15: elders and apostles gather at Jerusalem to discuss the doctrine of Circumcision. Herein are the **THREE ELEMENTS** that are intended to fill our lives with work in the Truth: proclaiming Truth to world, edifying the ecclesia, and fraternal work.

Act 15:1 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of **Moses**, ye cannot be saved. ***this included Titus—Gal 2:1-3**

Act 15:2 When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and ***CERTAIN OTHER OF THEM**, should go up to JERUSALEM unto the APOSTLES AND ELDERS about this question. *Question regarding Gentiles*

Settled by mature brethren (Gal 2:1-9). *Moral matters “least” in the ecclesia can judge (1Cor 6:4)*. This doctrine was difficult, as even Peter and Barnabas were influenced in Antioch (Gal 2:11-13). *Controversy arose in Gentile Antioch, so they return to Jewish foundation of the Truth (Jerusalem). Paul/Antioch (14:26) to Jerusalem/Peter (15:7) back to Paul/Antioch (15:30)*

This doctrine is directly related to “Signs” in the Book of Acts. While literal, it is called “the SIGN of circumcision”—Covenant with Abraham (Gen 17:10-13; Rom 4:11); a token rep. the seed of Abraham would be those who cut off the flesh (Rom 4; Gal 4—see: Phi 3:3; Rom 2:25-29; Col 2:11). 1Cor 7:18-19. The apostle specifically notes that Abraham enacted this doctrine, because he was called out by God when he was uncircumcised (Rom 4:9-14 cf. Gen 12)

ENACTED DOCTRINE OF CIRCUMCISION—WHEN PAUL GOES TO GENTILES

Act 16:1-5 “THEN came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but **HIS FATHER WAS A GREEK**: Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium. *Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and *CIRCUMCISED him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that HIS FATHER WAS A GREEK. *(1Cor 9:20) And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. AND SO WERE THE CHURCHES ESTABLISHED IN THE FAITH, AND INCREASED IN NUMBER DAILY”* **Ecclesia Established BY Doctrinal Truth**

Circumcised—after Jerusalem, Paul enacts the paternal doctrine: the Jewish father of Timothy after the spirit (1Cor 4:15; Phi 1:10; Heb 1:5; 5:5; Joh 1:13).

Rom 2:29 “He is a Jew, which is one *inwardly*; and CIRCUMCISION is *that* of the heart, *in the spirit*, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God”

Phi 3:3 “For we are the CIRCUMCISION, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and *have no confidence in the flesh*”

Timotheus—Gk “dear to God.” Paul became his “father” in the faith:

Phi 2:19-23 “I trust in the Lord Jesus to send *Timotheus* shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. For **I HAVE NO MAN LIKEMINDED**, who will naturally care for your state. For *all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's*. But ye know the proof of him, that, **AS A SON WITH THE FATHER, HE HATH SERVED WITH ME IN THE GOSPEL**. Him therefore I hope to send presently, so *soon as I shall see how it will go with me*” (1Tim 1:2)

- The pattern of Paul, “the father,” and Timothy, “the son” is constant.
- Like God and Christ, Paul required Timothy to circumcise the flesh (Act 16:3). As the one “sent” to the ecclesias by his father, Timothy was in oneness with Paul, walking in his ways (Mat 8:21-22).
- Timothy is called his Paul’s “beloved son” (1Cor 4:17; 2Tim 1:2), an expression used elsewhere for God & Jesus. *Paul had no son after the flesh*
- Released from prison (Heb 13:23), Timothy was a mediator: 1The 3:1-7
- He developed in the Word as a child (Act 16:1; 2Tim 1:5; 3:15), and upon maturity Paul was established as his “father” *Mat 3:17; Heb 1:5*
- Paul’s letters to the ecclesias are a greeting from He and His Son¹⁴—

The Paul—Timothy...Father—Son Pattern:

Phi 1:1-2 “**Paul** and **Timotheus**, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from **God our Father**, and from **the Lord Jesus Christ**”

2Cor 1:1-2 “**Paul**, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and **Timothy** our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia: Grace *be* to you and peace from **God our Father**, and from **the Lord Jesus Christ.**”

Col 1:1-2 “**Paul**, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and **Timotheus** our brother, To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from **God our Father** and **the Lord Jesus Christ.**”

- 1Cor 4:17 “For this cause have *I sent unto you Timotheus, *who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord,* who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ” **only used for God/Christ*
- **Paul, the Father, strengthened his son Timothy in personal epistles**

FROM ASIA INTO EUROPE

Act 16:6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and *were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia*, (**men only “led by the Spirit”—Rom 8:14**)

Act 16:7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: *but the Spirit suffered them not*. (**2nd redirection**)

Act 16:8 And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.

Act 16:9 And *a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia*, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us... (**now the answer:**)

Acts 16:10 ...*assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them*. (**spiritual discernment required**)

Macedonia—spirit “suffered not” or prevented them going elsewhere, directing Paul from Asia (v. 6) into Europe. The Truth is never without direction. While resisted in one thing, we must remain malleable for another door to be opened (1Cor 10:13). Clay, Metal formed by Yahweh

Philippi—site of the first ecclesia in Europe (v 15). Note: women

Act 16:13 And *on the sabbath* **we** went out of the city *by a river side*, where PRAYER was wont to be made; and **we** sat down, and SPAKE UNTO THE WOMEN WHICH RESORTED THITHER.

Act 16:14 And a *certain woman* named LYDIA, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, *WHICH WORSHIPPED GOD, HEARD US: *whose heart the Lord opened, *that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. *(because she took heed. Jam 4:8)*

Sabbath—the day the Word was expounded (works of flesh ceased); Christ being the fulfillment: (Acts 13:14,27,44; 15:21; 17:2; 18:4 cf. Isa 58:13)

River side—living waters in Christ (Joh 7:37-39; 4:14). Those who “delight in the Law of Yahweh” are “like a tree planted by the river of water, that bringeth forth fruit” (Psa 1). The River is the healing of all nations and people; Jew and Gentile (Isa 66:12; Rev 22:1-2)

Seller of purple—“royal” clothing of kingdom (Rev 5:9-10; Mar 15:17-20)

Heart the Lord opened—God blessed because she sought and receive it (Luk 11:9; Isa 55:6-7; Jer 29:12; Dan 9:3; Act 10:1-6). See Exo 31:6; 35:25-26, 29

She Attended—Greek means to *hold the mind; to arrest the thought*.

➤ *Of “women which resorted there,” Lydia “named” Rev 3:4; Num 1-3; Act 1:15*

Act 16:15 And when she was *baptized*, and her *household*, she besought *us*, saying, **IF YE HAVE JUDGED ME TO BE FAITHFUL TO THE LORD**, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained **US**. *House, feminine: ecclesia—Eph 5:23-32; 2Cor 11:2.*

Baptized—doctrine received must become obedience to walk:

Rom 6:17-18 “God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye *have* OBEYED FROM THE HEART THAT FORM OF DOCTRINE WHICH WAS DELIVERED YOU. Being then made free from sin, ye *became* the servants of righteousness”

Judge me faithful—reverent, not presumptuous disposition (1Tim 3:15)

Come in...and abide—note order: Individual then household (Tim-Titus).

➤ **N.T. order: Gospels (Christ). Acts (Individuals). Epistles (Ecclesias).**

Constrained us—to urgently compel. Only used elsewhere in Luke 24:29 when the Lord appeared to the two men on the way to Emmaus after his resurrection. *Desire for knowledge*

- *In both teaching and trial she identified with the Gospel; as Paul and Silas entered back into her house after release from prison (v 40).*
*Seller of purple: “if we suffer, we shall also reign with him” 2Tim 2:12*¹⁸

SIGN OF GENTILE WORSHIP OF THE SERPENT CAST OUT

Act 16:16 And it came to pass, as we went to *prayer*, a certain *damsel* POSSESSED WITH A SPIRIT OF DIVINATION met us, which brought her *masters* much *gain* by *soothsaying*:

Damsel—young female slave. Trans. “bondmaid” (Gal 4:22-23, 30-31).

Unnamed Masters—reps. principle: ruling power of Sin (Rom 6:16-17).

Possessed with a spirit—mental malady: perverse thinking of flesh.

Soothsaying—root trans. “mad” or “beside thyself” (John 10:20; Act 12:15; 26:24-25; 1Cor 14:23). Mentally twisted: *physical, fig. serpent*

Divination—mg. “spirit of Python” (Young’s). “Divination” reps. false doctrine by way of false prophesying (Jer 14:14; 27:9-10; 29:8-9; Eze 13:1-6; ; 2Kin 17:17). Serpent is a symbol of false worship according to the thinking of the flesh: lie of the Serpent (Joh 8:44 cf. Gen 3:3-7).

☐ “Man is more nearly related to the serpent than to any other animal — so nearly, that the serpent-nature and the man-nature, without much exaggeration, might be termed identical.” *Eureka Vol 4, Pg 68*

Servitude to the Master of Sin Personified—

Rom 6:16-19 “Know ye not, that to WHOM ye yield yourselves servants to obey, HIS SERVANTS YE ARE TO WHOM YE OBEY; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that YE WERE THE SERVANTS OF SIN, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made FREE FROM SIN, ye became *the servants of righteousness*. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members *servants to uncleanness* and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members *servants to righteousness* unto holiness”

John 8:33-34 “They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, *Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin*”

Mat 6:24 “No man can *serve* two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot *serve* God and mammon”

“Brought her masters much gain by soothsaying” —financial reward is the hallmark of false religion, rooted in flesh (Act 19:24-26):

- **“Baalam... who loved the wages of unrighteousness”—2Pet 2:15**
- **“Teaching things they ought not for filthy lucre’s sake”—Tit 1:7-11**
- **“Through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you”—2Pet 2:3**

In contrast—the apostles

Act 20:33 “I have coveted no man’s silver, or gold, or apparel”

2Cor 12:17-18 “did I make gain of you... did Titus make gain of you”

2The 3:7-10 “neither did we eat any man’s bread for nought; but wrought with labor and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you”

1Pet 5:1-3 “feed the flock of God... willingly, not for filthy lucre”

➤ **False religion is noted by personal profit (Rev 17:4), and personal exaltation from men (2Tim 4:3; Act 20:30). The Truth is noted by personal sacrifice and disdain among men (2Cor 11:23-28). Men will embrace payment for false teaching in lieu of required personal sacrifice. This is the opposite of True worship (2Sam 24:24).**

Act 16:17 The same *followed* Paul and us, and cried, saying, *These men are the servants of the most high God*, which ***SHEW** unto us THE WAY of SALVATION. ***Gk. "teach"**

Act 16:18 And this did she **MANY DAYS**. But Paul, being *grieved*, **TURNED** and SAID to the spirit, I ***COMMAND** thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. *And he came out the same hour.* ****the Truth rebukes the flesh***

Followed Paul and us—Paul urged brethren to “be ye followers of me,” because he was a follower “of Christ” (1Cor 4:15-17; 11:1; Phi 3:17; 1The 1:6; 2The 3:9). *Truth is “continuing in the apostle’s doctrine” (Act 2:42)*

Servants of the Most High God—doesn’t call them Masters (Rom 6:17-20)

Many days—learning the Truth is never a quick process (Mat 7:7-8).

Paul, turned—“converted” (Mat 13:15; Act 3:19; Jam 5:19-20). Paul’s personal “old man of the flesh” is behind him. Now he converts others.

Said...command...spirit came out—“*With his word*” *Christ healed (Mat 8:16)* mental infirmity—spirit thinking (Mar 5:15; Luke 8:35); “carnal mind” or “thinking of the flesh” to be replaced by spirit (Rom 8). *When healed, Legion became “clothed and in his right mind” Luke 8:35.*

Act 16:19 And when *her MASTERS* saw that *the hope of their gains was gone*, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the *rulers*, **(John 15:20)**

Act 16:20 And brought them to the *magistrates*, saying, These men, *being Jews*, do exceedingly trouble our city,

Act 16:21 And *teach customs*, which are NOT LAWFUL for us to receive, neither to observe, *being Romans*. **religious/political opposition**

Her masters, caught Paul and Silas—while not his servants, Sin takes ahold of all men bringing them physically into the grave (Rom 5:12; 6:23)

JEWS teach customs not lawful for ROMANS—the Jewish teaching is “the Hope of Israel” (Acts 28:20). It is this “teaching” that is in contrast to “Rome.” *This is the core conflict between Israel-Truth and the Roman-False Religion. The former is the Hope of the Gospel of the Kingdom, while the latter is married to political and civil powers.*

The Jewish doctrine is the remedy for Gentiles, changing Masters from servitude of Sin and false religion to servitude of God (Rom 6:16-22). *It does not exalt men, and no financial reward to be had. Truth vs. Error*²³

Act 16:22 And **the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates *rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. *as they did Jesus: Mat 26:47, 65; 27:20-26*

Act 16:23 And when they had laid *many stripes* upon them, they CAST THEM INTO PRISON, charging the jailor to *keep them safely: (not Jewish 40—Deu 25:2—but Roman above measure 2Cor 11:23-24)*

Multitude—follow the serpent (Mat 27:20); few hear Truth (Mat 7:14)

Rent clothes—mortal nature (Mat 17:2; Act 9:39; 12:8; Rev 3:4-5).

Beat—only time recorded, though beaten often (2Cor 11:25). Gk.

strike with a wooden stick: typical of nature (Act 5:30). Paul said

“sufferings of Christ abound in us” 2Cor 1:5. **Note these words:**

- **Phi 3:10-11** “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and *the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; IF BY ANY MEANS I MIGHT ATTAIN UNTO THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD*” *first suffer, then exalted with him (2Tim 2:12)*

Keep him safely—Paul in the image of Christ: although he suffered death, the Lord did not see corruption, but was raised (Act 2:23-27)²⁴

Act 16:24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into *the inner prison*, and made their *feet fast in the STOCKS*.

Act 16:25 And at *midnight* Paul and Silas PRAYED, AND SANG PRAISES unto God: and *the prisoners *heard them. *Dia. "listened"*

Inner Prison—only used here: reps. Christ buried in a unique sepulchre “wherein never a man laid”—only sinless man (Joh 19:41 cf Act 2:24).

Stocks—same as Christ “hanged on a *tree*” (Acts 5:30; 10:39; Gal 3:13), “bare our sins in his own body on the *tree*” (1Pet 2:24). Mortal nature.

Feet Fast—a death Messiah could not escape: i.e. his nature (*Mat 27:64*)

Sang praises—Psalms are not empty words: they teach the doctrine of Messiah. Redemption from prison of sin and death. Peter’s exposition to the Jews was directly from the psalms (Act 1:16-20—Psa 79:11; 102:20)

Col 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...”

Prisoners heard them—prisoners related to another subject to death:

- “A light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house” Isa 42:6-7 (Zec 9:11-12) (*Luke 4:17-21; Isa 61:1-3*).²⁵

Act 16:26 And suddenly there was a *great earthquake*, so that *the foundations of the prison were shaken*: and immediately ALL THE DOORS WERE OPENED, AND EVERY ONE'S BANDS WERE LOOSED.

Great earthquake—literally, it is the violent shaking of the ground (*adam*). Mortal man created from and cursed to return to “the earth” (Gen 2:7; 3:19). As such, it represents the curse of sin, death being overcome by Yahweh’s Anointed—the resurrection.

Mat 28:2 “And, behold, *there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it*”

- Furthermore, “great earthquake” is applied three times in the Apocalypse, representing major events that changed the course of history (Rev 6:12; 11:13,19; 16:18). The use of that phrase appears for the resurrection of Christ (above), which forever changed history, bringing hope of redemption to man; and also here!

THE “FOUNDATIONS OF THE PRISON SHAKEN” WAS THE FIGURATIVE EARTHQUAKE!²⁶

Foundations of prison shaken—“foundation” is employed in the Bible as a critical doctrine (Rom 5:12-19; 15:20; 1Cor 3:10-12; Eph 2:20).

Note the exhortation for brethren to move from “milk” to “meat” —

Heb 6:1-2 “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; NOT LAYING AGAIN THE FOUNDATION of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms... resurrection of the dead...” (Heb 5:12-14)

1Cor 3:10-11 “According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. FOR OTHER FOUNDATION CAN NO MAN LAY THAN THAT IS LAID, WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST”

All doors opened, everyone’s bands loosed—Jesus’ death & resurrection provided a release from “prison” for all others who identify with him (Rom 8:29). *“Many bodies of saints which slept arose”*—*Mat 27:52*

☐ “Christ himself was included in the sacrificial work which he did ‘for us.’ ‘For himself that it might be for us’...” *R.R. Law of Moses*

Christ “should taste death for every man”—Heb 2:9²⁷

NOTE THE CONEXT OF CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS MANIFESTED IN THE LIFE OF PAUL

Gal 6:17 "I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus"

1Cor 11:1 "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ"

Principles of the Atonement embodied in Paul to benefit others:

- 2Cor 1:3-7 "sufferings of Christ abound in us...*for your consolation and salvation*"
- 2Cor 4:7-12 "death worketh in us, *but life in you*"
- Col 1:24 "my sufferings...*for his body's sake, which is the ecclesia*"
- 2Tim 2:9-10 "I endure all things *for the elect's sake*" (Act 9:15-16)
- **The death and resurrection of Christ cannot be separated from those he came to save and redeem (Bro. Roberts' point to J.J. Andrew).**
2Cor 4:5-11 "For we preach NOT OURSELVES, *but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake... Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made MANIFEST IN OUR BODY.* For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made MANIFEST in our mortal flesh"

Act 16:27 And the keeper of the prison *awaking out of his sleep*, and **SEEING THE PRISON DOORS OPEN**, he drew out his sword, and ***would have killed himself**, supposing that the *prisoners* had been fled. ***putting flesh to death, personally**

Act 16:28 But Paul **CRIED WITH A LOUD VOICE**, saying, *Do thyself no harm*: for we are all here.

Awaking out of his sleep—spiritual slumber (Rom 13:11; 1The 5:1-7).

“Awake to righteousness”—1Cor 15:34. “Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light” —Eph 5:14.

Seeing the prison doors open—the way of salvation had been opened. One man—of all who lived since Adam—prevailed against the grave!

Sword—*is the Word (Eph 6:17; Heb 4:12): exposes, but redeems man.*

Cried, loud voice—doctrine of redemption (Mar 15:34-37; John 11:43)

Do thyself no harm—Christ came “not to destroy men’s lives, but to save” (Luk 9:56); “came into the world to save sinners” (1Tim 1:15).

- **John 3:17** “God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world **THROUGH HIM** might be saved” (*through enlightenment*)²⁹

Prison—rep. of the grave. Joseph: the butler and baker (bread and wine) joined him in prison (Gen 40:1-5).

IT IS THE PROPHETIC DECLARATION OF THE WORK OF YAHWEH'S ANOINTED
Isa 61:1 “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because *the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound*”

1Pet 3:18-21 “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: **BY WHICH ALSO HE WENT AND PREACHED UNTO THE SPIRITS IN PRISON;** Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. **THE LIKE FIGURE WHEREUNTO EVEN BAPTISM DOTH ALSO NOW SAVE US** (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ”

Act 16:29 Then *HE called for a light*, and SPRANG IN, and came trembling, and *fell down before* Paul and Silas,
Act 16:30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, *WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED? *prepared to meet the requirements of salvation
Act 16:31 And they said, *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ*, and thou shalt *BE SAVED, and thy house.
Act 16:32 And they SPAKE UNTO HIM THE WORD OF THE LORD, and to all that were in his HOUSE.

Light—seeking enlightenment regarding the death and resurrection of the Lord (Joh 3:17-21): 2Cor 4:3-11; Eph 5:8; 1The 5:5; Acts 26:18.

2Tim 1:8-11 “Our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath *abolished death*, and hath BROUGHT LIFE AND IMMORTALITY TO LIGHT through the gospel”

Sprang in—RSV “rushed in” *identification with Christ’s death (Rom 6:4); as Peter and John entered into the tomb of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 20:1-8)*

Fell down before—submission to the one released from prison.

Believe on—requires a knowledge of who Jesus Christ is, and what he accomplished (Act 2:22; 10:36-44; 1John 4:2; 2John 1:7; John 17:3),₁

Spake the Word—conversion based in knowledge of doctrine (Rom 6:17)

Act 16:33 And *he took them* the same hour of the night, and *washed their stripes; and was baptized*, he and all his, straightway. (Mat 20:28; Rom 3:24-25; 4:25; 5:6-10; 2Cor 5:21)

Act 16:34 And when *he had brought them into his house*, he set MEAT before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with *all his house*. Fellowship: Mk 14:12-22; Joh 6:53; Gal 2:12; 1Cor 5:11

Washed their stripes—Two requirements for baptism: (1) hearing the word—v. 32, (2) identifying with the sacrifice of Christ—v. 33.

Isa 53:5 “He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and *with his stripes we are healed.*”

Q: How did he do this? A: As indicted in this entire “sign,” a rep. man with whom all others must identify to be saved (Isa 53:12; Rom 4:25). Sinners must repent (Luke 5:32; Acts 2:38; 3:26; Heb 7:25)

Set Meat...House—represents the Memorial Table based upon an understanding of all those now “in the house.” Fellowship in Truth is established in the Law (milk) and fulfilled in Christ (meat)—Heb 5:12-14

Act 16:40 **AND THEY WENT OUT OF THE PRISON, AND ENTERED INTO THE *HOUSE OF LYDIA:** and when they had seen the brethren, *they comforted them,* and departed. ***PURPLE, REWARD**

Out of the prison, into the House of Lydia—Christ's death/resurrection created the ecclesia; the fruit of his sacrifice (*fem. gender*)—Eph 5:25. They comforted them—in the natural it absurd that the One who was slandered, beaten and cast into prison becomes the comforter. But, by the Atonement it is God's means of redeeming A People for His Name.

Tit 2:14 “Who GAVE HIMSELF FOR US, **that** he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works”

2Cor 5:15 “And *that* HE DIED FOR ALL, **that** they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again”

2Cor 5:19-21 “God was in Christ, *reconciling the world unto Himself,* not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation... For he hath MADE HIM TO BE SIN FOR US, who knew no sin; **that** we might be made the righteousness of God in him”³³