

The Acts of the Holy Spirit

Acts 21:1-40

When Paul makes plans to return to Jerusalem, what famous cities does he see on the way back? What is disturbing about the counsel that the disciples (in the broad sense) give to Paul in 21:4? With whom does Paul stay in Ptolemais, and what is notable about the Spirit's movement within that family?

In Acts 21:10-14, what prophetic gesture does Agabus make? How does Paul respond, and what does this episode, along with the earlier message-from-the-Spirit episode in Act 21, tell us about the movement of the Spirit in this period of building anxiety?

When Paul arrives at Jerusalem, how do the disciples there respond to his stories of Gentile faithfulness? What concern do they raise about stories that have preceded Paul? In 21:23-25, what measures do the Jerusalem Christians propose to keep the ugly rumors from destroying Paul?

In 21:26-29, who starts to stir up trouble for Paul? How does the book of Acts explain the (shaky) grounds for their accusations? What grand symbolic act happens in Acts 21:30, signaling the true turn towards the end of the book?

In Acts 21:31 the Empire gets involved. What measures do the centurions and soldiers take to prevent a lynching, and what request does Paul make of them? Why is it important that Paul knows Greek?