

- A Study In Acts -

Chapter Seventeen – Second Journey of Paul Continued

ACTS 17:5-10:

From Philippi, Paul will travel to **Thessalonica** and preached to the Jews and devout Greeks in the synagogue with good success.

Please use the map

In this lesson, Paul is going to, once again, be faced with persecution by unbelieving Jews.

Text #1:

Acts 17:5-9 “But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. ⁶ But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, “These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. ⁷ Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king— Jesus.” ⁸ And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things. ⁹ So when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.”

Becoming Envious: The Jews were to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ first and as master builders help usher in the kingdom of the Messiah; however, for the most part they rejected the Messiah and His Gospel of their redemption and all men (**Acts 2:37; 4:12**). This is a common practice that we have become familiar with in our study and will continue here and in the future of our study; **Acts 13:45; 17:5, 13; 22:22**. This will also be commentary on God’s righteous judgment on Israel for their willing rejection and hard heartedness against the very Messiah of promise; as already warned by Peter – **Acts 3:22-23**; and Paul spent three chapters informing the Roman Christians about – **Romans 9-11**.

Evil Men: These men who were sought in the marketplace, by the definition of the Greek word used, were ‘Low fellows’, or ‘those who idle their time in public places’. The Jews here are going to recruit rabble to assist them in causing an uproar.

House of Jason: It is obvious that it was known that Paul and his companions were staying in the house of this fellow Jason. Jason is a common Greek name (from the Greek, ‘*Iason*’, and meaning, ‘to heal’), and all that is known of him is found here in the text; it is not something that we can truly establish; however, it could be the same Jason mentioned to Christians in Rome, while Paul was at Corinth – **Romans 16:21**.

Rulers: When Paul and his companions could not be found, the Jews laid hold of Jason and other brethren and brought them before the ‘*Politarches*’ (rulers of the city, as in magistrates of

the city – these are different than in **16:22**; as they were *‘Praetors’*, also translated as ‘Magistrates’ but seemed to be more regional).

Turned the World Upside Down: The Jews accused them of exciting riot in other places, as well as here. This is truly a compliment to Paul’s work in the Gospel, because their teaching and presence was being felt by the people. What can any of us accomplish when people are not aware of our presence? Paul was setting the world straight, but to the unbelieving Jews it was upside down. Paul’s work in the Gospel is felt by unbelieving Jews all the way to Rome – **Acts 28:22**. In fact, there can be little doubt that it was the Jews who truly instigated the riot.

It is here in **verse 7**, that we have commentary on the accusations brought against Paul and Silas in Philippi – **Acts 16:21**. The Jews are using the only thing that they know the city rulers will be concerned about, preaching another king other than Caesar. The effect is seen in their troubled minds at hearing this; however, it seems since the Jews do not have the actual instigators of this claim, they simply secure bond from Jason and the brethren, then release them.

Text #2:

Acts 17:10 “Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.”

Berea: This is another city of Macedonia (the northern province of Greece) and about 60 miles from Thessalonica (it is also known as *‘Beroea’*, or *‘Beroia’*). It is located in the southwest portion of the province, lying at the base of Mt. Bermius, and situated on a tributary of Haliacmon.



One of Paul's traveling companions at the end of the third journey is from this city – “Sopater of Berea”, **Acts 20:4**.

It should also be noted before we conclude this lesson that Timothy is not with Paul and Silas. He remained in Thessalonica, and we learn from **1 Thessalonians 3:1-5**, that Timothy was left behind to establish and encourage the brethren in Thessalonica.

Next: “These are More Fair-Minded!”