



Lesson 21 - Thessalonica

Based on Acts 17:1-10.

Paul, Silas, Timothy, and now Luke were out on Paul's second missionary journey about mid-way. They landed in Greece, at Philippi, we pick up the journey here on their way to Thessalonica.

1) Where does our lesson begin today?

Acts 17:1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to _____, where was a synagogue of the Jews:

2) Where had they just happened recently at Philippi?

Acts 16:22-24 And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to _____ them. And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into _____, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the _____.

After leaving Philippi, Paul and Silas made their way to Thessalonica. Here they were given the privilege of addressing large congregations in the Jewish synagogue. Their appearance bore evidence of the shameful treatment they had recently received and necessitated an explanation of what had taken place. This they made without exalting themselves but magnified the One who had wrought their deliverance.

3) What was the core of his preaching to the Jews in Thessalonica?

Luke 24:27 (Jesus speaking here) And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the _____ the things concerning himself.

Acts 17:2-3 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three _____ days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and _____ again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

In preaching to the Thessalonians, Paul appealed to the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah.

4) What promise was given to Adam after the fall?

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy _____, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Plain and specific prophecies had been given regarding the appearance of the Promised One. Adam was given an assurance of the coming of the Redeemer.

5) What promise was given to Abraham?

Genesis 22:18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be _____; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

6) What reminder did Paul give to the believers in Galatia?

Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of _____, And to thy seed, which is Christ.



7) What promise did God give to Moses?

Deuteronomy 18:15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a _____ from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

Deuteronomy 18:18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall _____ unto them all that I shall command him.

8) What promise did God give Jacob?

Genesis 49:10 The _____ shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

The Messiah was to be of the royal line.

9) What did Isaiah tell us?

Isaiah 11:1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a _____ shall grow out of his roots:

Isaiah 55:3-5 Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting _____ with you, even the sure mercies of David.

Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and _____ to the people. Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall _____ unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee.

10) What did Jeremiah tell us?

Jeremiah 23:5-6 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute _____ and _____ in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR _____.

Jeremiah 33:17-18 For thus saith the LORD; David shall never want a man to sit upon the _____ of the house of Israel; Neither shall the priests the Levites want a man before me to offer burnt offerings, and to kindle meat offerings, and to do _____ continually.

11) Where was Messiah to be born?

Micah 5:2 But thou, _____ Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

12) What was Messiah to do?

Isaiah 11:2-3 And the _____ of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his _____, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

Isaiah 61:1-3 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath _____ me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim _____ to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;



To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them _____ for ashes, the _____ of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

13) What did Paul teach the believers there?

Acts 17:3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and _____ again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

Micah 5:1 Now gather thyself in troops, O daughter of troops: he hath laid siege against us: they shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the _____.

Isaiah 50:6 I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the _____: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

Psalms 22:6-8 But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and _____ of the people. All they that see me laugh me to _____: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He _____ on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.

Psalms 22:17-18 I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast _____ upon my vesture.

Psalms 69:8-9 I am become a _____ unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children. For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the _____ of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.

Psalms 69:20 Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take _____, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none.

How unmistakably plain were Isaiah's prophecies of Christ's sufferings and death!

14) What did Isaiah have to say?

Isaiah 53:1-3 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the _____ of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor _____; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and _____ of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Isaiah 53:4-5 Surely he hath _____ our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was _____ for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:6-8 All we like sheep have gone _____; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the _____, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the _____: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

15) What did Paul go on to preach?

Zechariah 13:6 And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my _____.

Isaiah 53:9-10 And he made his _____ with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an _____ for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Psalms 16:9-10 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in _____; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see _____.



The Saviour of prophecy was to come, not as a temporal king, to deliver the Jewish nation from earthly oppressors, but as a man among men, to live a life of poverty and humility, and at last to be despised, rejected, and slain. The Saviour foretold in the Old Testament Scriptures was to offer Himself as a sacrifice in behalf of the fallen race, thus fulfilling every requirement of the broken law. In Him the sacrificial types were to meet their antitype.

Paul told the Thessalonian Jews of his former zeal for the ceremonial law and of his wonderful experience at the gate of Damascus. Before his conversion he had been confident in a hereditary piety, a false hope. His faith had not been anchored in Christ; he had trusted instead in forms and ceremonies. His zeal for the law had been disconnected from faith in Christ and was of no avail. While boasting that he was blameless in the performance of the deeds of the law, he had refused the One who made the law of value.

But at the time of his conversion all had been changed. Jesus of Nazareth, whom he had been persecuting in the person of His saints, appeared before him as the promised Messiah. The persecutor saw Him as the Son of God, the one who had come to the earth in fulfillment of the prophecies and who in His life had met every specification of the Sacred Writings.

16) What effect did this Word have in the Thessalonica?

Acts 17:3 And some of them _____, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

17) Was everyone impressed with the Message?

Acts 17:4 But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain _____ of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an _____, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

These Jews were not then in favor with the Roman power, because, not long before, they had raised an insurrection in Rome. They were looked upon with suspicion, and their liberty was in a measure, restricted. They now saw an opportunity to take advantage of circumstances to re-establish themselves in favor and at the same time to throw reproach upon the apostles and the converts to Christianity.

18) Did they find Paul and Silas?

Acts 17:6-7 And when they found them _____, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also; Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one _____.

19) What became of Paul, Silas, Luke, and Timothy?

Acts 17:10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto _____: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

Those who today teach unpopular truths need not be discouraged if at times they meet with no more favorable reception, even from those who claim to be Christians, than did Paul and his fellow workers from the people among whom they labored. The messengers of the cross must arm themselves with watchfulness and prayer, and move forward with faith and courage, working always in the name of Jesus. They must exalt Christ as man's mediator in the heavenly sanctuary, the One in whom all the sacrifices of the Old Testament dispensation centered, and through whose atoning sacrifice the transgressors of God's law may find peace and pardon.

Can you see that opposition sometimes comes?

Do you want to help others see the truth?

When is the time to proclaim the truth?