

The  
Action  
Bible

Words To  
The Church



# A Blinding Light

BASED ON ACTS 9:1-18

YEARS EARLIER, A BOY NAMED SAUL WAS BORN IN TARSUS. HIS PARENTS TAUGHT HIM TO WORSHIP AND OBEY GOD. SAUL BECAME A BRILLIANT STUDENT OF THE JEWISH LAW. LIKE MOST JEWISH LEADERS, SAUL REFUSED TO ACCEPT JESUS AS THE SAVIOR SENT FROM GOD. WHEN JEWISH LEADERS STONED STEPHEN, SAUL HELD THEIR COATS. SOON HE BEGAN HIS OWN ATTACK ON JESUS' FOLLOWERS. HE DRAGGED THEM OFF TO BE QUESTIONED, PUNISHED, AND EVEN PUT TO DEATH. THEN SAUL DECIDED TO LOOK FOR MORE BELIEVERS IN DAMASCUS.

SAUL RIDES TOWARD DAMASCUS WITH THE EAGERNESS OF A HUNTER ON THE TRACK OF HIS PREY. AT THE SIGHT OF THE CITY, HE URGES HIS HORSE ON—AS IF EVERY MINUTE COUNTS IN HIS SEARCH TO DESTROY JESUS' FOLLOWERS. SUDDENLY LIGHT FLASHES, A LIGHT BRIGHTER THAN THE NOONDAY SUN. HE FALLS TO THE GROUND, AND A VOICE CALLS OUT TO HIM:

SAUL! SAUL!  
WHY ARE YOU  
TORTURING ME?

WHO  
ARE YOU,  
LORD?

I AM JESUS,  
THE ONE YOU ARE PERSECUTING.  
GET UP AND GO INTO THE CITY.  
YOU WILL BE TOLD WHAT  
TO DO NEXT.



THE MEN  
TRAVELING  
WITH SAUL HEAR  
THE VOICE BUT  
DON'T SEE  
ANYTHING.  
TERRIFIED ...



SAUL,  
WHAT'S THE  
MATTER? WHAT  
HAPPENED?

MY EYES!  
I CAN'T SEE!  
HELP ME INTO  
THE CITY.

SO, BLIND AND AWED  
BY HIS EXPERIENCE,  
THE ONCE PROUD  
SAUL IS LED INTO  
DAMASCUS—TO A  
HOUSE ON STRAIGHT  
STREET.



WHERE  
ARE YOU  
TAKING  
ME?

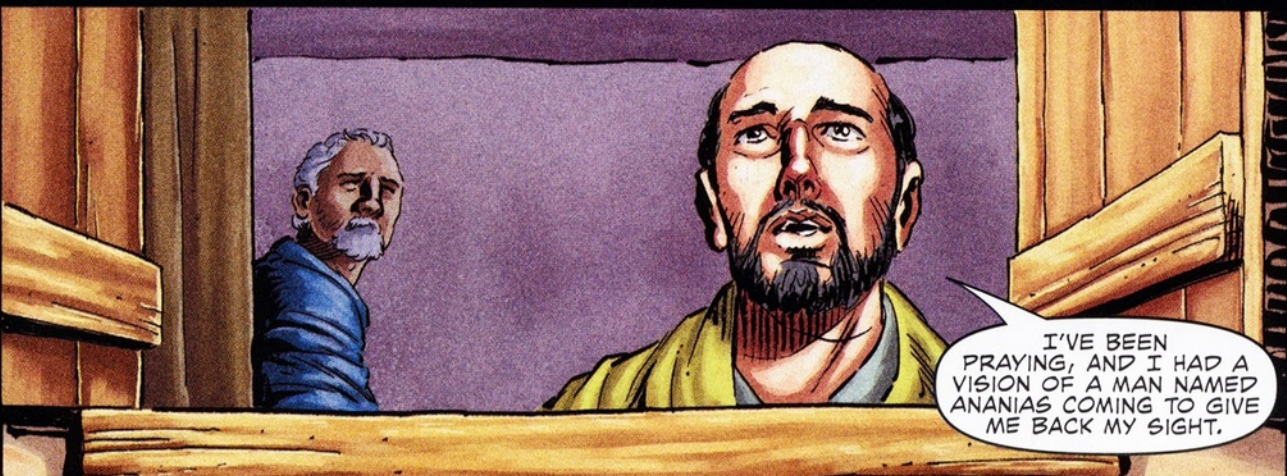
TO THE  
HOME OF JUDAS,  
A FRIEND OF  
MINE.

FOR THREE DAYS,  
SAUL CAN'T SEE  
ANYTHING. HE  
EATS NOTHING AND  
DRINKS NOTHING  
THE WHOLE TIME.  
INSTEAD, HE  
SPENDS HIS  
HOURS SIMPLY  
PRAYING.



HAS A MAN  
NAMED ANANIAS  
ASKED TO SEE  
ME?

NO.  
WHAT MAKES  
YOU THINK HE  
WILL?



I'VE BEEN  
PRAYING, AND I HAD A  
VISION OF A MAN NAMED  
ANANIAS COMING TO GIVE  
ME BACK MY SIGHT.



WHILE SAUL IS PRAYING, JESUS APPEARS TO ANANIAS IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY.

ANANIAS, GET UP! GO TO STRAIGHT STREET, TO THE HOUSE OF JUDAS. ASK FOR A MAN NAMED SAUL. HE'S HAD A VISION THAT YOU WILL COME.

LORD, I'VE HEARD OF THIS EVIL MAN. HE HATES YOUR FOLLOWERS!

GO! I HAVE CHOSEN HIM TO WORK FOR ME. HE'LL TAKE MY GOOD NEWS TO ALL PEOPLE—NOT JUST THE JEWS.

ANANIAS OBEYS. AT THE HOME OF JUDAS, HE FINDS SAUL ...

BROTHER SAUL, YOU SAW THE LORD JESUS. NOW HE HAS SENT ME SO YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE AGAIN. YOU WILL BE FILLED WITH HIS SPIRIT.

ANANIAS LAYS HIS HANDS ON SAUL'S EYES ...

PRAISE GOD! I CAN SEE AGAIN!



# The New Paul

BASED ON ACTS 9:26-31

SAUL, WHO IS ALSO CALLED PAUL, RETURNS TO JERUSALEM. HE WANTS TO JOIN THE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, BUT THEY ARE STILL AFRAID AND RUN FROM THE SIGHT OF HIM. BARNABAS, THE MAN WHO SOLD HIS LAND AND GAVE THE MONEY TO THE POOR, IS THE FIRST TO BELIEVE THAT PAUL HAS CHANGED.

PAUL  
FOLLOWS JESUS  
NOW. HE HAS SEEN  
JESUS! HE PREACHES  
IN JESUS' NAME.

WELL, COME IN!  
YOU MUST TELL ME  
MORE ABOUT WHAT  
HAPPENED!

FOR DAYS AND NIGHTS, PAUL, THE BRILLIANT STUDENT OF JEWISH LAW, AND PETER, THE RUGGED FISHERMAN, TALK ABOUT JESUS. THE BELIEVERS IN JERUSALEM SEE THAT GOD HAS CHANGED PAUL'S LIFE.



IN JERUSALEM, PAUL BOLDLY  
DECLARES HIS NEW BELIEFS.

I BELIEVE  
JESUS ROSE FROM  
THE DEAD! I BELIEVE  
HE IS THE SAVIOR  
SENT FROM GOD.

WHAT HAS  
HAPPENED TO  
MAKE PAUL TALK  
LIKE THIS? MAYBE  
JESUS IS THE  
SON OF GOD.

WHEN PAUL'S OLD FRIENDS SEE THAT HE  
BELIEVES IN JESUS, THEY ARE FURIOUS!

STOP HIM!  
STOP HIM BEFORE  
HE STIRS UP THE  
PEOPLE.

THEN WE  
HAVE TO  
KILL HIM.

DEATH IS THE  
ONLY THING THAT  
WILL SILENCE A  
MAN LIKE PAUL.



JESUS' FOLLOWERS FIND OUT ABOUT THE PLOT AGAINST PAUL'S LIFE AND WARN HIM.

YOUR ENEMIES ARE POWERFUL, PAUL. THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL YOU. WE'LL HELP YOU GET AWAY TO CAESAREA.

I CAN GO TO TARSUS, MY HOMETOWN. I'LL SERVE THE LORD THERE.



PAUL ESCAPES TO THE SEACOAST AND SAILS NORTH TO HIS BOYHOOD HOME, TARSUS. THERE HE EARN'S HIS LIVING BY MAKING TENTS—AND SPENDS ALL HIS FREE TIME TELLING PEOPLE THAT JESUS IS THE SAVIOR GOD PROMISED TO SEND.



ONE DAY A SHIP DOCKS AT TARSUS. A PASSENGER HURRIES DOWN THE PLANK ...





# Foreign Assignment

BASED ON ACTS 11:19-30; 12:25-13:5

AFTER ESCAPING HIS ENEMIES, PAUL WORKS FOR SEVERAL YEARS AS A TENTMAKER IN TARSUS AND TELLS THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS. ONE DAY AN OLD FRIEND COMES TO SEE HIM ...



BARNABAS!  
WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING IN  
TARSUS?

I'M LOOKING  
FOR YOU, PAUL!

I'VE BEEN  
PREACHING IN ANTIOCH,  
AND THE CHURCH HAS GROWN  
SO MUCH THAT I NEED HELP.  
WILL YOU COME?

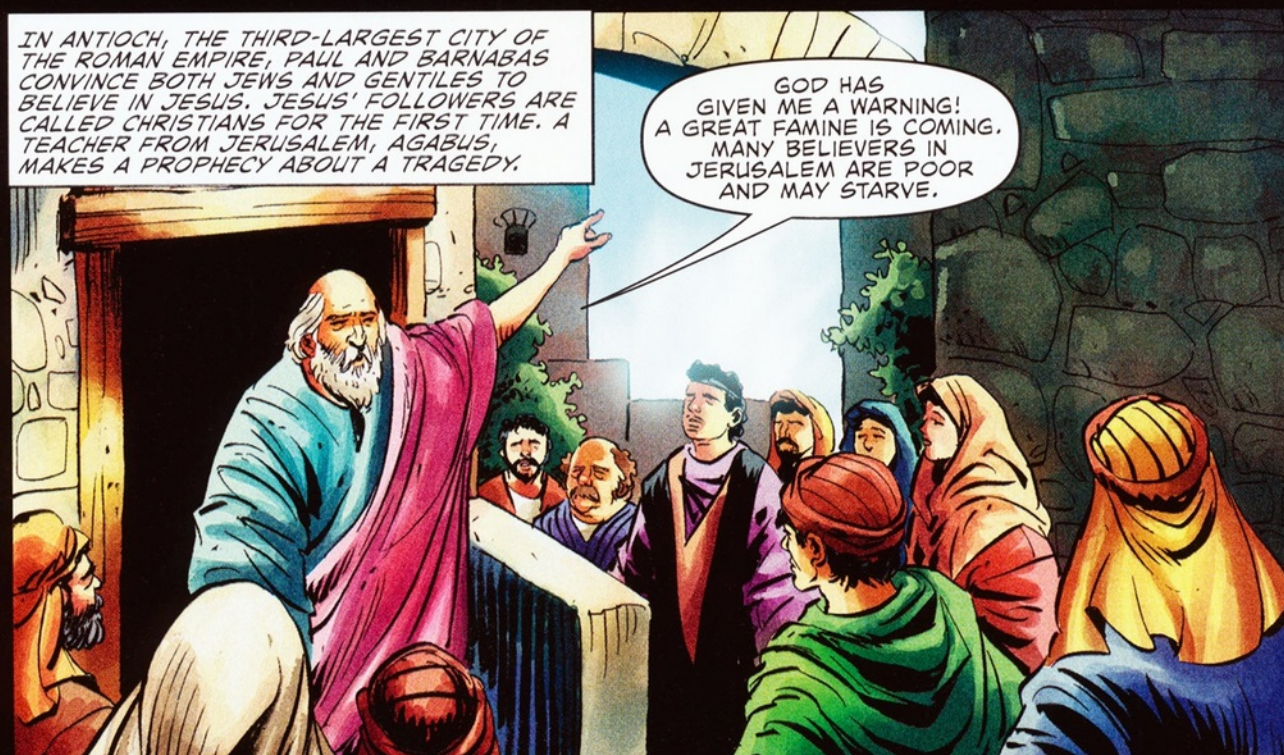
EAGERLY,  
PAUL ACCEPTS  
THE  
INVITATION.



WHEN  
YOU STARTED  
THE PERSECUTION  
IN JERUSALEM,  
SOME BELIEVERS  
WENT TO ANTIOCH  
AND STARTED  
A CHURCH  
THERE.

THANK GOD  
YOU ARE GIVING ME  
THE CHANCE TO ASK  
THEIR FORGIVENESS  
AND WORK WITH THEM  
TO TELL OTHERS  
ABOUT JESUS.

IN ANTIOCH, THE THIRD-LARGEST CITY OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, PAUL AND BARNABAS CONVINCE BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES TO BELIEVE IN JESUS. JESUS' FOLLOWERS ARE CALLED CHRISTIANS FOR THE FIRST TIME. A TEACHER FROM JERUSALEM, AGABUS, MAKES A PROPHECY ABOUT A TRAGEDY.



GOD HAS  
GIVEN ME A WARNING!  
A GREAT FAMINE IS COMING.  
MANY BELIEVERS IN  
JERUSALEM ARE POOR  
AND MAY STARVE.



THE BELIEVERS IN ANTIOCH WANT TO HELP. THEY DECIDE TO SEND MONEY TO JERUSALEM FOR BELIEVERS THERE TO BUY FOOD. PAUL OFFERS TO HELP DELIVER THE GIFT.



THE CHRISTIANS IN ANTIOCH GIVE GENEROUSLY, AND PAUL AND BARNABAS TAKE THE MONEY TO JERUSALEM.



BARNABAS!

PAUL AND I BRING HELP FROM THE CHRISTIANS IN ANTIOCH. WE'VE BROUGHT MONEY FOR THE ELDERS IN JERUSALEM TO USE.



GO TELL THE OTHER ELDERS. WE HAVE MONEY TO BUY FOOD!





THEIR MISSION COMPLETE, PAUL AND BARNABAS PREPARE TO LEAVE JERUSALEM.

PAUL, THIS IS MY COUSIN, JOHN MARK. HE WOULD LIKE TO GO WITH US.

GOOD! WE CAN USE YOU, MARK.

IN ANTIOCH, PAUL AND BARNABAS MEET WITH OTHERS FOR PRAYER. GOD TELLS THE LEADERS OF THE CHURCH TO SEND PAUL AND BARNABAS TO TELL THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS IN OTHER PLACES. THEY SET OUT WITH MARK.

THERE'S THE ISLAND OF CYPRUS!

AND THAT'S WHERE OUR MISSIONARY WORK BEGINS.

AFTER PREACHING IN SEVERAL CITIES ON THE ISLAND, THE MISSIONARIES REACH PAPHOS. NO ONE HAS GIVEN THEM ANY TROUBLE, BUT THEN ...

SERGIUS PAULUS, THE ROMAN GOVERNOR, ORDERS YOU TO COME WITH ME.



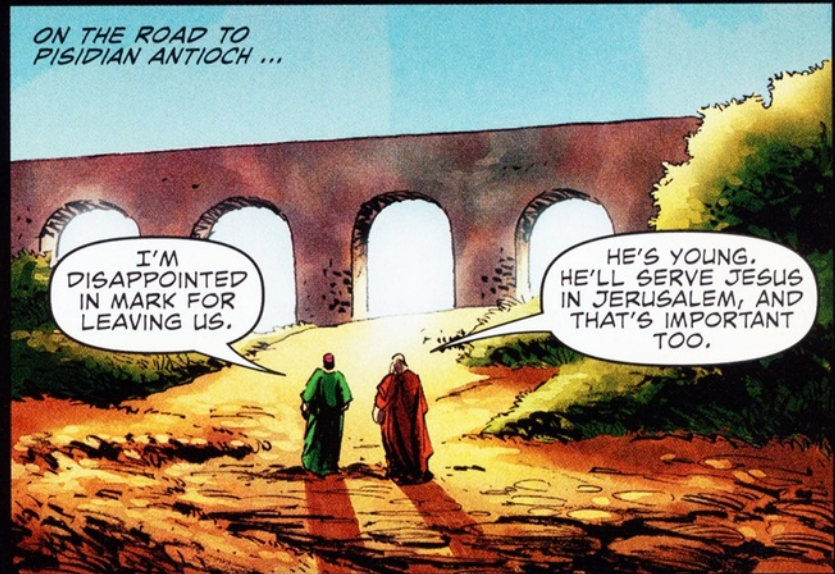
# Silence, Sorcerer!

BASED ON ACTS 13:6-14:7

AFTER PREACHING AROUND THE ISLAND OF CYPRUS, PAUL, BARNABAS, AND MARK ARE SUMMONED TO SEE THE ROMAN GOVERNOR. TO THEIR SURPRISE, HE WANTS TO HEAR ABOUT JESUS. EAGERLY, PAUL TELLS ABOUT JESUS AND HOW GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD. THE COURT SORCERER TRIES TO KEEP THE GOVERNOR FROM BELIEVING.











THIS MAN IS A LIAR AND A TRAITOR TO THE JEWISH FAITH.

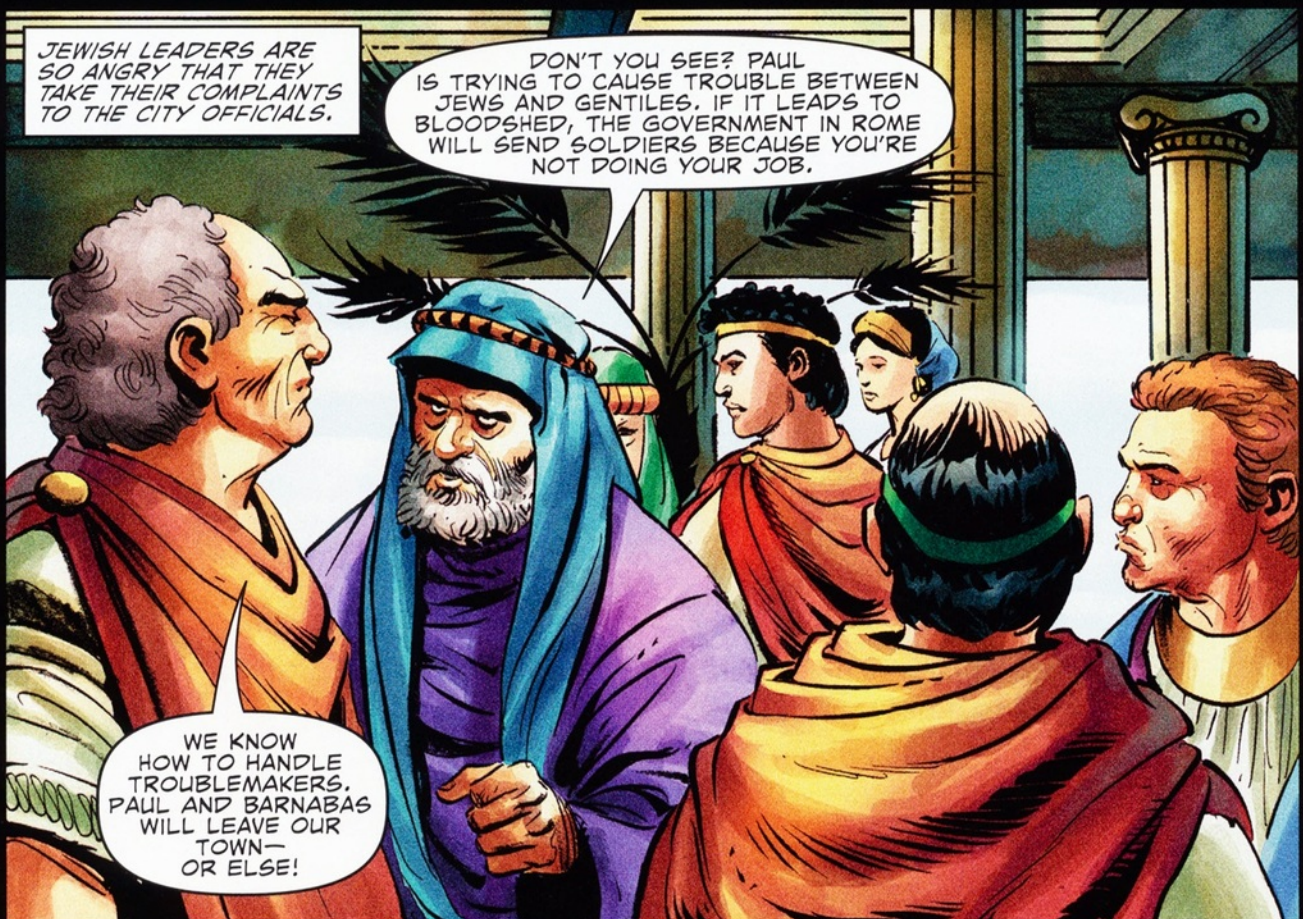
IT IS MY DUTY TO SHARE GOD'S MESSAGE OF EVERLASTING LIFE WITH THE JEWS FIRST. BUT IF YOU DO NOT WANT THE MESSAGE, I'LL TAKE IT TO THE GENTILES.



THE GENTILES, PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT JEWS, REACT TO PAUL'S MESSAGE WITH JOY.

THANK GOD FOR SENDING PAUL WITH SUCH GOOD NEWS!

ETERNAL LIFE WITH GOD! I HAVE TO TELL ALL MY FRIENDS ABOUT JESUS.



JEWISH LEADERS ARE SO ANGRY THAT THEY TAKE THEIR COMPLAINTS TO THE CITY OFFICIALS.

DON'T YOU SEE? PAUL IS TRYING TO CAUSE TROUBLE BETWEEN JEWS AND GENTILES. IF IT LEADS TO BLOODSHED, THE GOVERNMENT IN ROME WILL SEND SOLDIERS BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT DOING YOUR JOB.

WE KNOW HOW TO HANDLE TROUBLEMAKERS. PAUL AND BARNABAS WILL LEAVE OUR TOWN—OR ELSE!



PAUL AND BARNABAS ARE IN DANGER, SO THEY SHAKE THE DUST OFF THEIR SANDALS AND LEAVE PISIDIAN ANTIOCH. THEY TRAVEL SOUTHEAST TO ICONIUM, ANOTHER CITY IN THE PROVINCE OF GALATIA. HERE JEWS AND GENTILES ALIKE BELIEVE IN JESUS. BUT THE JEWS WHO DON'T BELIEVE ARE FUMING.



NO MATTER WHERE PAUL GOES, SOME PEOPLE ARE MADE ANGRY BY THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS.





# Lystra Ups ...

BASED ON ACTS 14:8-20

ONE DAY AS PAUL IS PREACHING IN LYSTRA, HE SEES A MAN WHO CAN'T WALK LISTENING TO HIM WITH KEEN INTEREST.



# ... and Downs

INSTANTLY THE MAN JUMPS UP ...

I CAN WALK!  
PRAISE GOD!  
I CAN WALK!



WHEN PRIESTS BRING BULLS TO SACRIFICE TO THEM, PAUL AND BARNABAS RUSH INTO THE CROWD ...

NO! YOU MUST NOT WORSHIP US. WE'RE ONLY MEN JUST LIKE YOU.

WE'RE NOT GODS, BUT WE'RE BRINGING YOU GOOD NEWS OF THE ONE TRUE GOD.





BUT YOU  
ARE LIKE THE  
GODS ZEUS AND  
HERMES!

TURN AWAY FROM  
THESE WORTHLESS  
GODS! TURN TO THE TRUE  
GOD WHO MADE HEAVEN  
AND EARTH.



THE PEOPLE LISTEN EAGERLY, THEN  
SOME OF PAUL'S ENEMIES FROM ANTIOCH  
AND ICONIUM COME TO LYSTRA. THEY  
SPREAD THEIR LIES AMONG THE PEOPLE.

PAUL AND  
BARNABAS CAUSE  
TROUBLE WHEREVER  
THEY GO. GET RID  
OF THEM!



NOW THE PEOPLE IN LYSTRA BELIEVE THE  
ENEMIES, AND A MOB RISES UP AGAINST PAUL  
AND BARNABAS WITH STONES IN THEIR HANDS.

THERE'S  
PAUL!  
STONE HIM!  
KILL HIM  
THIS TIME!







WHIPPED INTO A RAGE BY MEN FROM ANTIOCH AND ICONIUM, THE PEOPLE OF LYSTRA TURN AGAINST PAUL AND STONE HIM. THEY DRAG HIS BODY OUT OF THE CITY AND LEAVE HIM FOR DEAD.

THIS WILL BE A LESSON TO ANYONE WHO TRIES TO MAKE TROUBLE IN OUR CITY!



AFTER THE MOB LEAVES, BARNABAS AND THE BELIEVERS OF LYSTRA GATHER AROUND PAUL'S MOTIONLESS FORM. AS THEY STAND WEeping ...

HE'S MOVING! HE'S ALIVE! QUICK, HELP HIM!



WE THOUGHT THEY KILLED YOU!

THEY MEANT TO. BUT GOD SAVED ME. LET'S GO BACK INTO THE CITY.



# The Greek Divide

BASED ON ACTS 14:20-15:1

THE NEXT DAY, PAUL AND BARNABAS LEAVE FOR DERBE, WHERE MANY PEOPLE BECOME CHRISTIANS. BUT PAUL'S EYES TURN BACK TOWARD ANTIOCH AND THE CHURCH THAT SENT THEM OUT ...

THE SHORTEST WAY HOME IS THROUGH TARSUS.

NO, WE MUST GO BACK THE WAY WE CAME SO WE CAN CHECK ON THE BELIEVERS AND SEE HOW THEIR CHURCHES ARE DOING.



BACK IN THEIR OWN CHURCH IN ANTIOCH, PAUL AND BARNABAS ARE OVERJOYED TO SEE THEIR FRIENDS AND TELL EVERYTHING THAT GOD HAS DONE.

GOD HAS OPENED THE WAY FOR ANYONE TO BELIEVE IN JESUS!

WE'RE GLAD WE COULD HELP SUPPORT YOU AS YOU SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS.



WITH PAUL AND BARNABAS AS LEADERS, THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH GROWS IN SIZE AND INFLUENCE. BUT ONE DAY A GROUP OF CHRISTIANS ARRIVES FROM JERUSALEM.

YOU GENTILES CANNOT BECOME CHRISTIANS UNLESS YOU ALSO OBEY OUR JEWISH LAWS.

WHAT? WHO MADE THAT RULE?



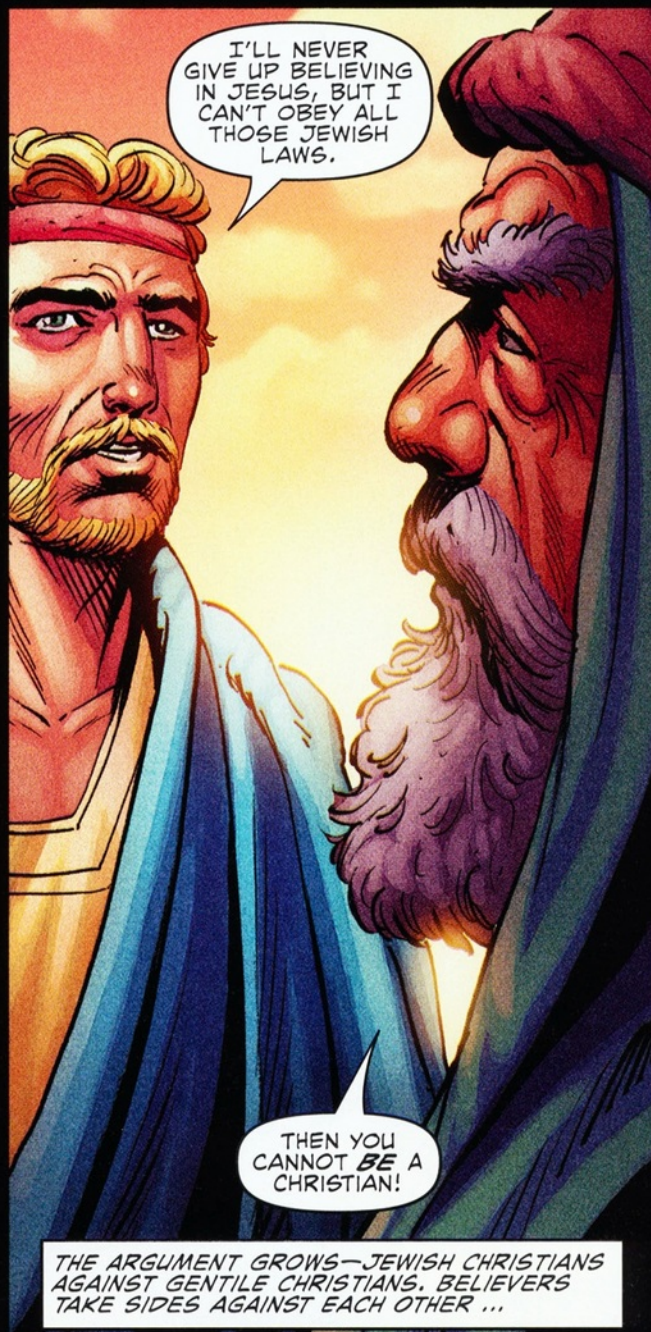
WE SPEAK WITH THE AUTHORITY OF JAMES, THE BROTHER OF JESUS, WHO IS THE LEADER OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM.

HOW CAN THIS BE TRUE? PAUL NEVER SAID ANYTHING LIKE THIS.



I'LL NEVER GIVE UP BELIEVING IN JESUS, BUT I CAN'T OBEY ALL THOSE JEWISH LAWS.

THEN YOU CANNOT *BE* A CHRISTIAN!



THE ARGUMENT GROWS—JEWISH CHRISTIANS AGAINST GENTILE CHRISTIANS. BELIEVERS TAKE SIDES AGAINST EACH OTHER ...



# Jerusalem Council

BASED ON ACTS 15:1-35; GALATIANS

LIKE A VIOLENT WIND, THE ARGUMENT BETWEEN JEWISH AND GENTILE CHRISTIANS RIPS THROUGH THE CHURCH. PAUL AND BARNABAS AND OTHERS FROM ANTIOCH TRAVEL TO JERUSALEM TO SPEAK WITH THE CHURCH LEADERS THERE.



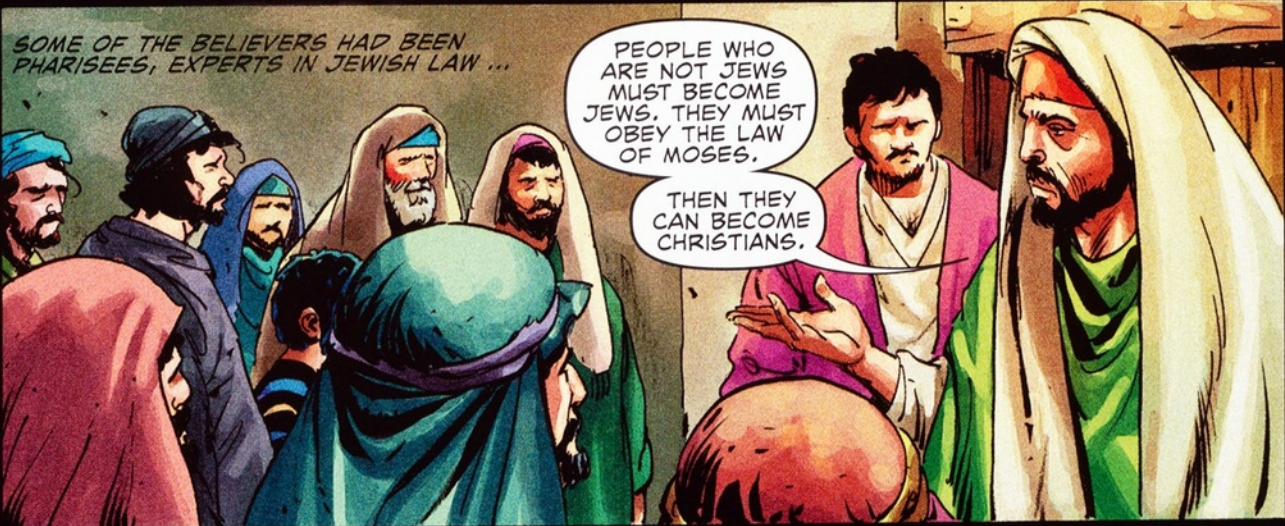
THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM WELCOMES PAUL AND BARNABAS.

EVERYWHERE WE GO, GENTILES BELIEVE IN JESUS.

GOD IS SHOWING HIS POWER BOTH TO JEWS AND NON-JEWS.

I AM CONVINCED THAT TO GOD IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU ARE GREEK OR JEW, MAN OR WOMAN, RICH OR POOR, BECAUSE WE ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST.





SOME OF THE BELIEVERS HAD BEEN PHARISEES, EXPERTS IN JEWISH LAW ...

PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT JEWS MUST BECOME JEWS. THEY MUST OBEY THE LAW OF MOSES.

THEN THEY CAN BECOME CHRISTIANS.



THE APOSTLES AND ELDERS MEET TO TALK ABOUT THIS QUESTION. NOT EVERYONE AGREES. PETER STANDS UP TO TALK ...

BROTHERS, GOD CHOSE ME TO TAKE THE GOOD NEWS TO PEOPLE WHO AREN'T JEWS.

HE GAVE THEM THE SAME HOLY SPIRIT HE GAVE US. WHY DO YOU WANT TO MAKE IT HARD FOR THEM TO BELIEVE?

WE ARE SAVED BY THE GRACE OF GOD. THE GENTILES ARE SAVED THE SAME WAY.

THERE IS DEAD SILENCE IN THE ROOM ...



THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL FACES A QUESTION: DO GENTILES FIRST HAVE TO BECOME JEWS AND OBEY JEWISH LAWS BEFORE THEY CAN BELIEVE IN JESUS? AFTER ARGUMENTS FROM BOTH SIDES, JAMES, THE HEAD OF THE COUNCIL, STANDS UP TO SPEAK ...

WE'VE HEARD  
WHAT PAUL AND  
BARNABAS HAVE  
SAID.

WE'VE HEARD  
PETER TELL US THAT  
GOD LOVES PEOPLE WHO  
ARE NOT JEWS.

LET'S NOT  
MAKE IT HARD FOR  
NON-JEWS TO  
TURN TO GOD.

THE COUNCIL AGREES TO A FEW  
IMPORTANT RULES. CHRISTIANS, BOTH  
JEWS AND GENTILES, MUST AVOID EATING  
FOOD THAT WAS SACRIFICED TO FALSE  
GODS, AND THEY MUST LEAD PURE LIVES.



# The Next Journey

BASED ON ACTS 15:36-16:19

WITH THIS QUESTION SETTLED, PAUL AND BARNABAS CAN GO BACK TO TRAVELING AND PREACHING ABOUT JESUS.

LET'S MAKE A TRIP TO VISIT THE CHURCHES WE STARTED.

GOOD IDEA. I WANT TO ASK MARK TO GO WITH US AGAIN.

NO, MARK LEFT US THE LAST TIME.

I KNOW, BUT WE SHOULD GIVE HIM A SECOND CHANCE.

PAUL DISAGREES. SO BARNABAS AND PAUL GO THEIR SEPARATE WAYS. BARNABAS TAKES MARK AND SAILS TO CYPRUS. PAUL TAKES SILAS TO VISIT THE CHURCHES HE STARTED.

PAUL RETURNS TO LYSTRA, THE CITY WHERE HE WAS STONED. THE CHURCH HAS BEEN GROWING, AND PAUL MEETS A YOUNG MAN NAMED TIMOTHY.

PAUL, I WANT YOU TO MEET TIMOTHY. HE'S BECOME ONE OF OUR BEST YOUNG LEADERS.

TIMOTHY, NEVER LET ANYONE LOOK DOWN ON YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE YOUNG. YOU CAN SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR OTHER BELIEVERS.



TIMOTHY EAGERLY JOINS PAUL ON HIS JOURNEY. SOON THE THREE TRAVELERS ARE ON THEIR WAY. GOD TELLS THEM NOT TO FOLLOW THE ROAD TO EPHESUS. INSTEAD THEY GO NORTH AND WEST UNTIL THEY REACH TROAS ON THE AEGEAN SEA.



IN TROAS, PAUL MEETS ANOTHER NEW FRIEND ...



DR. LUKE!  
THE LORD MUST  
HAVE LED YOU TO  
JOIN US HERE.

I CAN'T  
WAIT TO TRAVEL  
WITH YOU AND  
SEE WHAT GOD  
WILL DO.

AS THE FOUR MISSIONARIES  
WALK THE STREETS OF THE  
GREAT SEAPORT ...



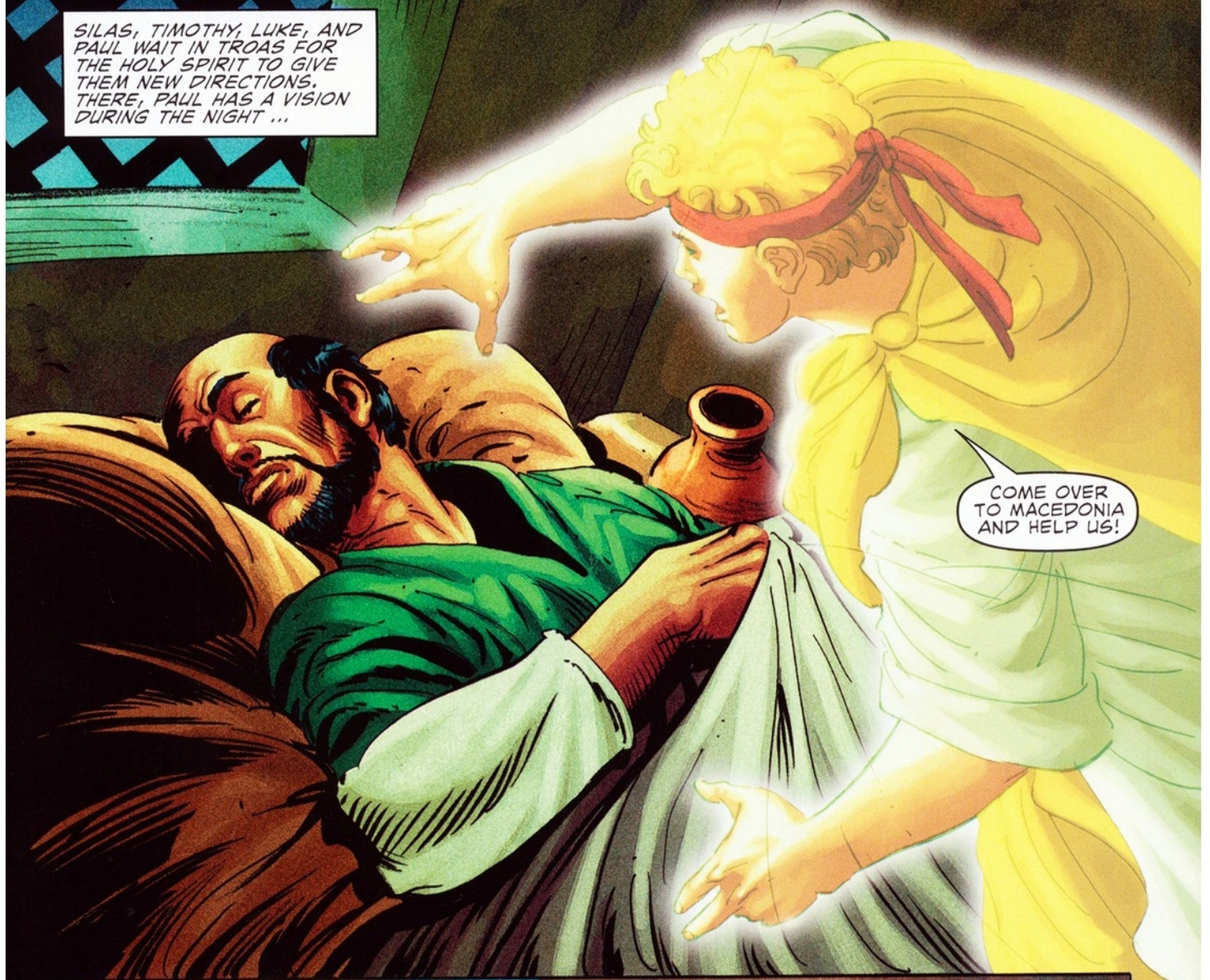
I WONDER  
WHERE GOD WANTS  
US TO GO NEXT?

THE HOLY  
SPIRIT WILL TELL  
US SOON.

AND I'LL  
RECORD ALL OUR  
ADVENTURES IN  
MY JOURNAL!



SILAS, TIMOTHY, LUKE, AND PAUL WAIT IN TROAS FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GIVE THEM NEW DIRECTIONS. THERE, PAUL HAS A VISION DURING THE NIGHT ...



IN THE MORNING ...

GOD IS TELLING US TO TAKE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS TO THE PEOPLE IN MACEDONIA. WE NEED TO BE ON THE NEXT BOAT SAILING NORTHWEST.









SOON ALL THE MEMBERS OF LYDIA'S HOUSEHOLD ARE BAPTIZED. LYDIA INVITES THE MISSIONARIES TO MAKE HER HOME THEIR HEADQUARTERS WHILE THEY ARE IN PHILIPPI.

THE ROMANS LOVE PURPLE. I SELL MOST OF MY CLOTH TO THEM.

AS YOU SELL TO THEM, TELL THEM ABOUT JESUS.

EVERY DAY AS PAUL AND SILAS WALK THROUGH THE STREETS OF PHILIPPI, THEY SEE A SAD SIGHT ...

THE POOR GIRL IS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF AN EVIL SPIRIT. HER MASTERS EARN LOTS OF MONEY USING HER AS A FORTUNE-TELLER.

FINALLY, ONE DAY ...

YOU SERVE THE MOST HIGH GOD!

IN CHRIST'S NAME, COME OUT OF HER!

LOOK! SHE CAN'T TELL FORTUNES ANYMORE. OUR BUSINESS IS RUINED.

WHOEVER THAT MAN IS, HE'LL PAY FOR THIS. HE HAD NO RIGHT TO MESS WITH OUR AFFAIRS.



BASED ON ACTS 16:19-39

THESE  
JEWISH MEN ARE  
MAKING TROUBLE BY  
TEACHING AGAINST  
ROMAN LAW.

YES!

WE ALL  
HEARD  
THEM!



BUT I—

**SILENCE!**  
WE WILL NOT TOLERATE  
TROUBLE IN OUR CITY. GIVE  
THESE MEN A BEATING AND  
THROW THEM IN JAIL. SEE  
THAT THEY DON'T  
ESCAPE.



AFTER A SEVERE BEATING, PAUL AND SILAS ARE TAKEN TO JAIL.

YOU'LL PAY WITH YOUR LIFE IF THESE MEN ESCAPE.



MIDNIGHT COMES. IN SPITE OF THEIR SUFFERING, PAUL AND SILAS PRAY AND SING PRAISES TO GOD.

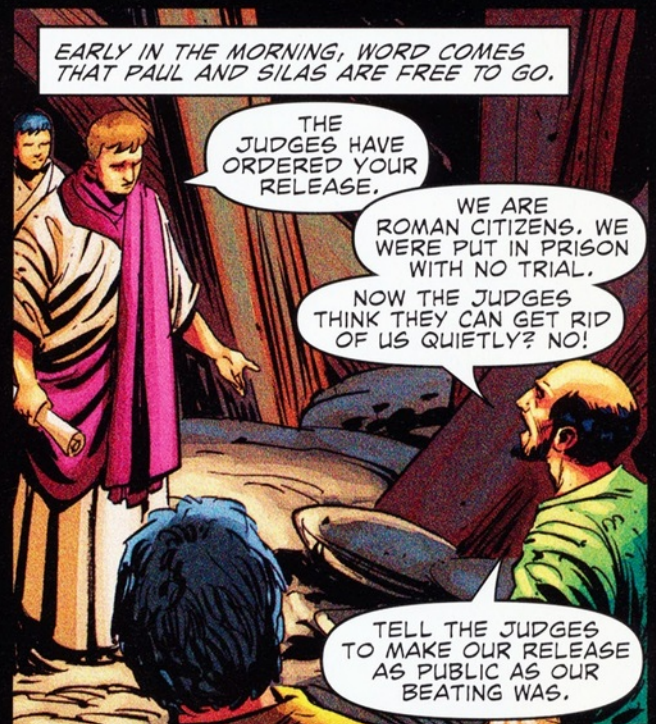


SUDDENLY THE PRISON FOUNDATION SHUDDERS. THE WALLS TWIST AND CRACK, SNAPPING CHAINS AND HINGES FROM THE HEAVY DOORS.

EARTHQUAKE!









THE ROMAN JUDGES, WHO ORDERED PAUL AND SILAS RELEASED FROM PRISON, ARE SURPRISED WHEN THE OFFICER RETURNS WITH A MESSAGE FROM THE PRISONERS.



THOSE MEN ARE ROMAN CITIZENS. THEY DEMAND THAT YOU COME TO THE PRISON AND RELEASE THEM AS PUBLICLY AS YOU PUNISHED THEM.

THEY'RE ROMAN CITIZENS? AND WE PUNISHED THEM WITHOUT A TRIAL! THIS COULD MEAN SERIOUS TROUBLE FOR US.

FORGETTING THEIR DIGNITY, THE JUDGES GO IMMEDIATELY TO THE PRISON.



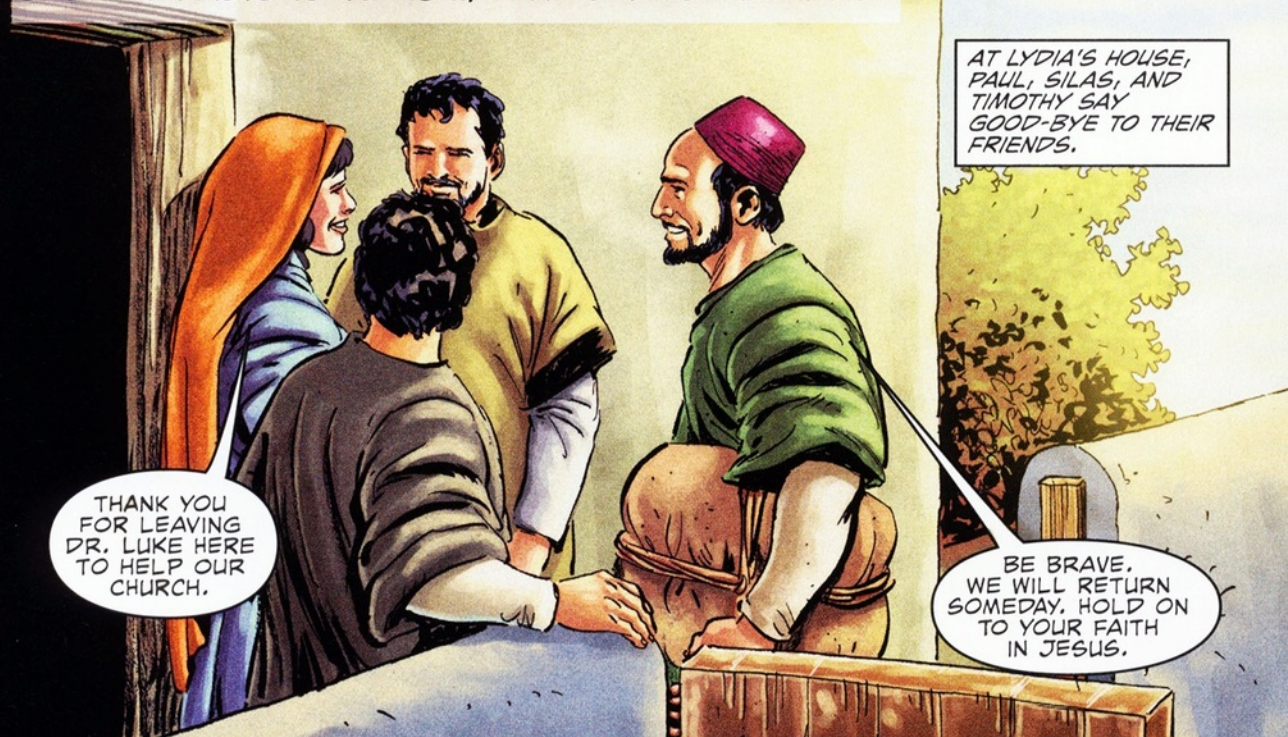
WE'RE SORRY FOR THE SHAMEFUL WAY WE TREATED YOU. NOW PLEASE LEAVE OUR CITY TO AVOID FURTHER TROUBLE.

WE FORGIVE YOU—AND WE'LL LEAVE TODAY.



# Trouble in Thessalonica

BASED ON ACTS 16:40-18:11; 1 AND 2 THESSALONIANS



AT LYDIA'S HOUSE, PAUL, SILAS, AND TIMOTHY SAY GOOD-BYE TO THEIR FRIENDS.

THANK YOU FOR LEAVING DR. LUKE HERE TO HELP OUR CHURCH.

BE BRAVE. WE WILL RETURN SOMEDAY. HOLD ON TO YOUR FAITH IN JESUS.



TRAVELING ON ABOUT 90 MILES, THE MISSIONARIES REACH THESSALONICA ON THE AEGEAN SEA. AS HE USUALLY DOES IN A NEW CITY, PAUL GOES TO THE SYNAGOGUE TO PREACH.

THE SCRIPTURES PROMISED A SAVIOR WOULD COME. JESUS, WHO DIED ON THE CROSS AND ROSE FROM THE DEAD, IS THAT SAVIOR.



MANY PEOPLE LISTEN AND BELIEVE, BUT—AS ALWAYS—SOME JEWISH LEADERS DO NOT ...

WE'VE GOT TO GET RID OF PAUL BEFORE HE HAS THE WHOLE CITY BELIEVING WHAT HE SAYS.

HE'S STAYING AT JASON'S HOUSE. LET'S GET HIM!

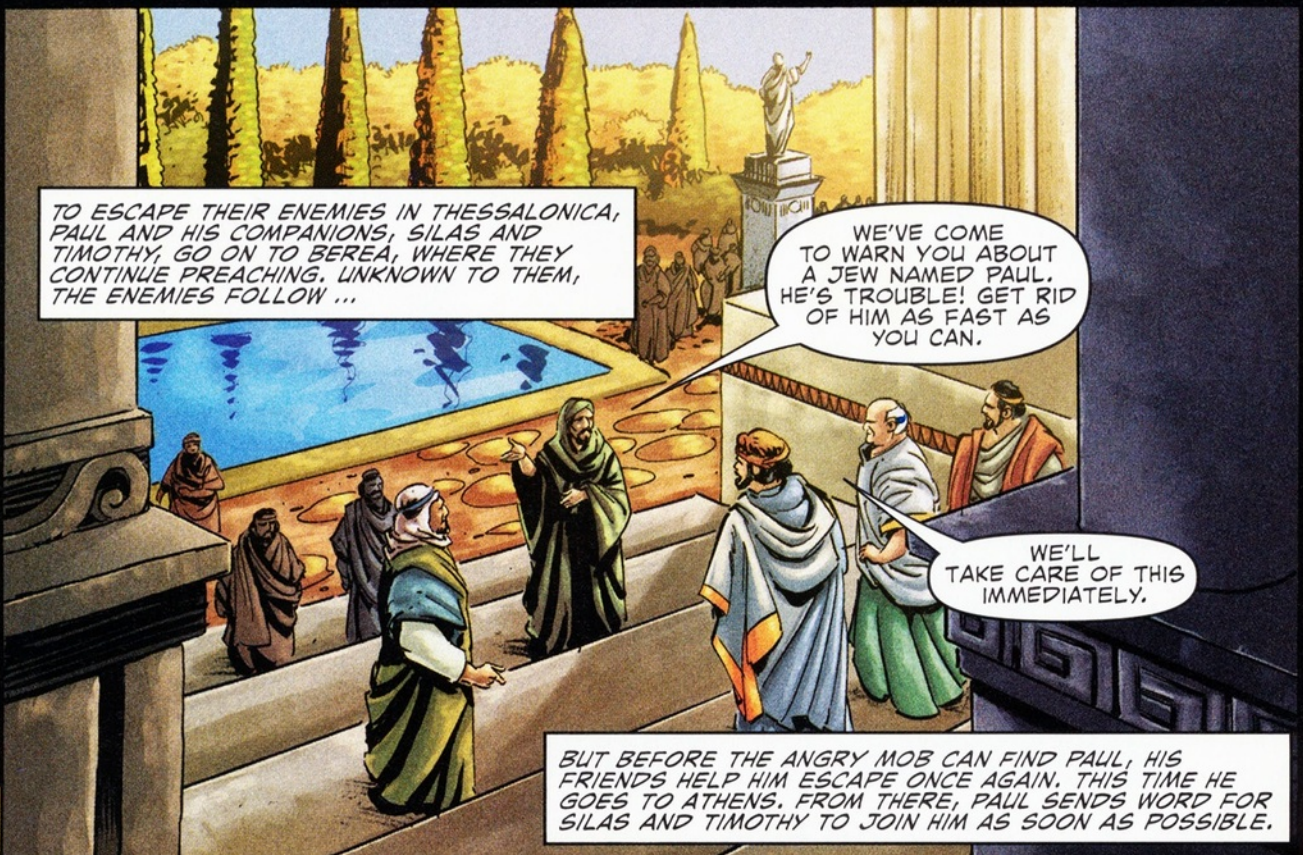
THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS GATHER A MOB AND GO TO JASON'S HOUSE.

GIVE US PAUL. WE KNOW YOU'RE HIDING HIM!

PAUL ISN'T HERE! YOU CAN LOOK FOR YOURSELF.

THAT NIGHT, PAUL'S FRIENDS HELP HIM ESCAPE ...






TO ESCAPE THEIR ENEMIES IN THESSALONICA, PAUL AND HIS COMPANIONS, SILAS AND TIMOTHY, GO ON TO BEREA, WHERE THEY CONTINUE PREACHING. UNKNOWN TO THEM, THE ENEMIES FOLLOW ...

WE'VE COME TO WARN YOU ABOUT A JEW NAMED PAUL. HE'S TROUBLE! GET RID OF HIM AS FAST AS YOU CAN.

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS IMMEDIATELY.

BUT BEFORE THE ANGRY MOB CAN FIND PAUL, HIS FRIENDS HELP HIM ESCAPE ONCE AGAIN. THIS TIME HE GOES TO ATHENS. FROM THERE, PAUL SENDS WORD FOR SILAS AND TIMOTHY TO JOIN HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

ON THE SABBATH, PAUL PREACHES TO THE JEWS. ON OTHER DAYS, HE PREACHES TO THE GREEKS IN THE MARKETPLACE. THEY INVITE HIM TO SPEAK BEFORE THE COURT OF MARS HILL. PAUL ACCEPTS EAGERLY.



MEN OF ATHENS, I'VE SEEN YOUR STATUES HONORING A "GOD YOU DO NOT KNOW." LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO HIM. HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD WHO MADE ALL THINGS, AND HE PROVED THIS BY RAISING JESUS FROM THE DEAD.

NOBODY CAN BE RAISED FROM THE DEAD. THAT'S RIDICULOUS.

I'M NOT SO SURE.



FROM ATHENS, PAUL GOES TO CORINTH, WHERE HE LOOKS FOR WORK.

MY NAME IS PAUL. I'M A TENTMAKER BY TRADE.

WHY DON'T YOU WORK WITH US? MY NAME IS AQUILA, AND THIS IS MY WIFE, PRISCILLA.

I AM ALSO A MISSIONARY. I WANT TO START A CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

PAUL PREACHES IN CORINTH ON THE SABBATH AND EARNS HIS LIVING AS A TENTMAKER DURING THE WEEK. ONE DAY SILAS AND TIMOTHY ARRIVE IN CORINTH WITH NEWS THAT THE CHURCH IN THESSALONICA IS DOING WELL.

I'LL WRITE TO THEM AT ONCE.

### PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE THESSALONIANS ...

I remember how joyfully you turned from your idols to serve the true God. No longer do we belong to the dark of night. We are all sons of the light and are all sons of the day. Don't be like children of the world that sleepwalks through life. Live in joy; pray constantly; and thank God for everything that happens to you—good or bad. Do not worry, because we will meet Jesus in heaven when we die.

PAUL STAYS IN CORINTH FOR A YEAR AND A HALF. DURING THIS TIME, HE WRITES ANOTHER LETTER TO THE CHRISTIANS IN THESSALONICA.

### PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE THESSALONIANS ...

Our Lord Jesus Christ will come back again—but that doesn't mean you can stop working in the meantime! If someone doesn't work, then he doesn't get to eat, either. Never get tired of doing the right thing. Before Jesus comes back, a man of lawlessness who hates the truth will claim to be God. So stand strong and stay true to the teachings of our Lord, so you will not be deceived.



# Corinthian Court

BASED ON ACTS 18:12-19:22;  
ROMANS; 1 CORINTHIANS

JEWISH LEADERS IN CORINTH ARE ANGRY BECAUSE SO MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE IN JESUS. THEY TAKE PAUL BEFORE THE NEW ROMAN GOVERNOR, GALLIO.

MOST EXCELLENT GALLIO, THIS MAN IS TELLING PEOPLE TO WORSHIP GOD IN WAYS THAT ARE AGAINST THE LAW. HE IS CHANGING THE JEWISH CUSTOMS THAT THE ROMANS ALLOW.

PAUL PREPARES TO DEFEND HIMSELF, BUT TO EVERYONE'S SURPRISE, GALLIO TURNS ON PAUL'S ENEMIES.

I AM NOT GOING TO GET INVOLVED IN YOUR QUARRELS ABOUT THE JEWISH LAW. THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ROMAN LAW. GET OUT OF MY COURT.

AFTER THIS ORDER BY THE GOVERNOR, PAUL PREACHES IN CORINTH WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE, AND THE CHURCH GROWS. PAUL WRITES ANOTHER LETTER, THIS TIME TO THE ROMANS.

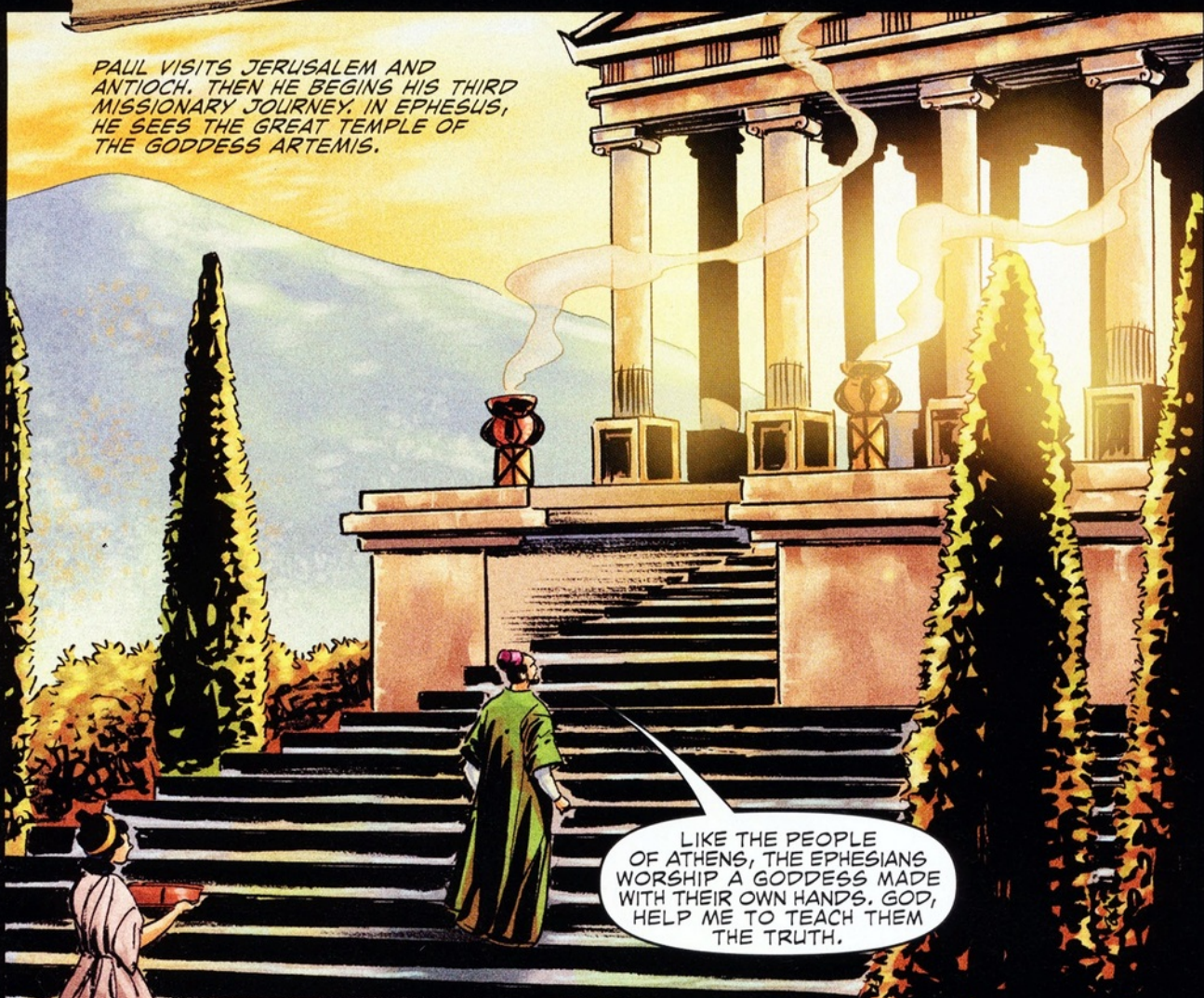




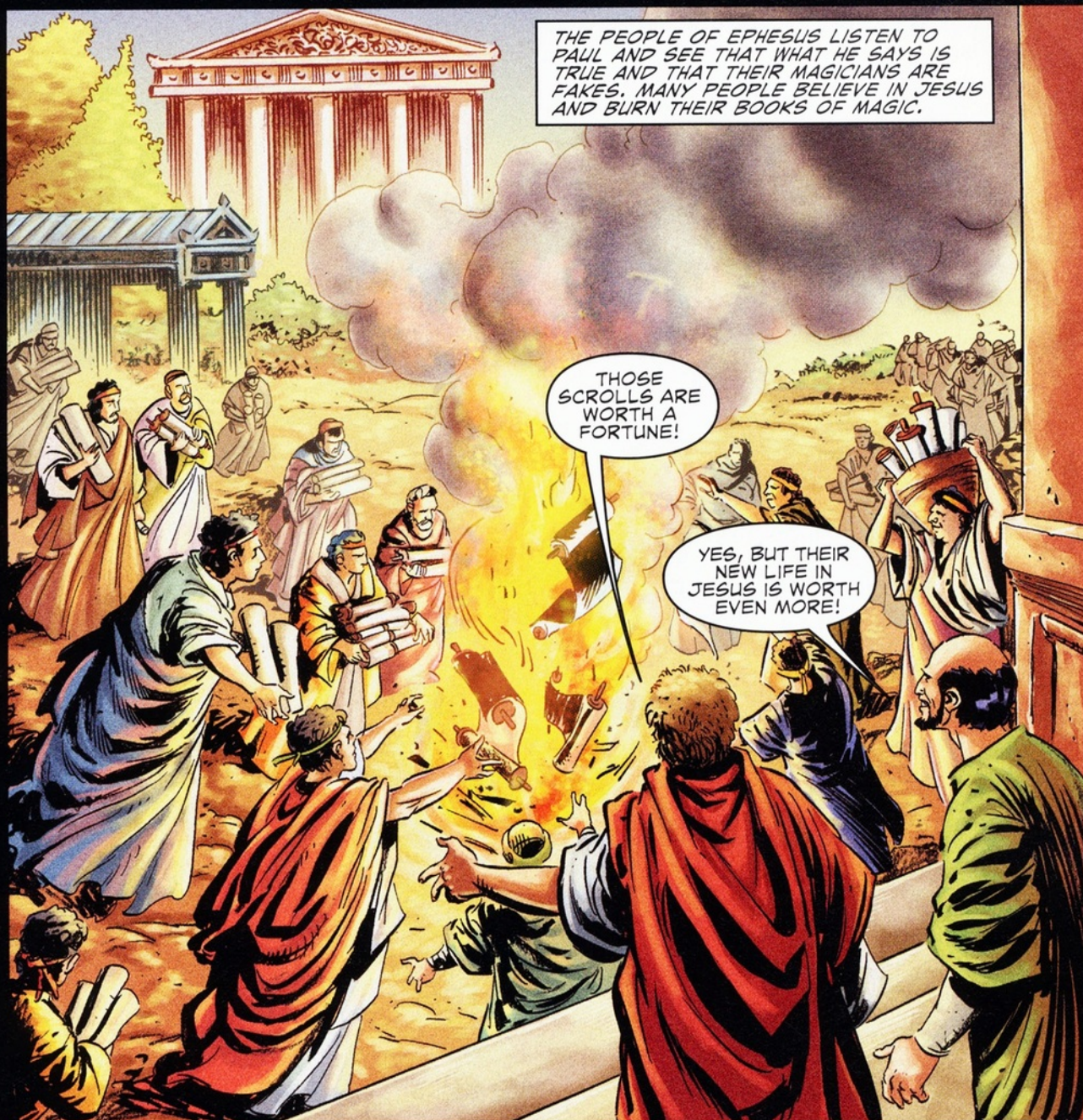
### PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS ...

Everybody—Roman or Greek, Jew or Gentile—needs God, because everybody has sinned and fallen short of God's perfection. But we are no longer punished by the law, because Christ Jesus gave us the law of the Spirit of life, which sets us free from the law of sin and death.

PAUL VISITS JERUSALEM AND ANTIOCH. THEN HE BEGINS HIS THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY. IN EPHESUS, HE SEES THE GREAT TEMPLE OF THE GODDESS ARTEMIS.







THE PEOPLE OF EPHESUS LISTEN TO PAUL AND SEE THAT WHAT HE SAYS IS TRUE AND THAT THEIR MAGICIANS ARE FAKES. MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE IN JESUS AND BURN THEIR BOOKS OF MAGIC.

THOSE SCROLLS ARE WORTH A FORTUNE!

YES, BUT THEIR NEW LIFE IN JESUS IS WORTH EVEN MORE!

PAUL IS STILL REJOICING ABOUT THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS WHEN NEWS COMES FROM CORINTH ...

SO PAUL SENDS A LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT CORINTH.

THE CHURCH IN CORINTH IS HAVING ALL KINDS OF TROUBLE. THE MEMBERS ARE TAKING SIDES AGAINST EACH OTHER. SOME OF THEM SAY *YOU* ARE THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH. OTHERS SAY APOLLOS IS THE BEST PREACHER. OTHERS SAY PETER IS THE REAL LEADER.

### PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS ...

I beg of you, my brothers, do not quarrel and divide the Church. The Church has only one head—Christ, who died on the cross.

Keep yourselves pure, because your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. So whatever you do with your body, eating or drinking or anything else, do it to honor God.

We've all been given different gifts of the Spirit so that we can build up the church in different ways. But even if I had all the gifts possible—if I knew everything and could speak the language of angels—it would mean nothing if I didn't have love.



# Ephesian Mob

BASED ON ACTS 19:23-20:5; 2 CORINTHIANS

THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS GROWS—ALMOST AS RAPIDLY AS THE BLAZE THAT DESTROYED THE BOOKS OF MAGIC. BUT THE PEOPLE WHO EARN MONEY BY SELLING THINGS TO WORSHIP THE FALSE GODS ARE NOT HAPPY ...

BUSINESS IS NO GOOD. PEOPLE AREN'T BUYING SILVER SHRINES OF ARTEMIS.

IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT CHRISTIAN PREACHER, PAUL. HE'S TELLING PEOPLE TO BELIEVE IN JESUS, SO THEY DON'T WANT THE THINGS WE MAKE.

PAUL TELLS PEOPLE ARTEMIS IS NOT REALLY A GODDESS, THAT IT DOES NO GOOD TO WORSHIP HER.

THE ANGRY MERCHANTS RUSH INTO THE STREET AND GRAB SOME OF PAUL'S FRIENDS.

WHERE IS PAUL? TELL US!

NEVER!



THE MOB SWELLS AS IT PASSES THROUGH THE STREETS. SOON THE WHOLE CITY IS IN AN UPROAR ...

ARTEMIS OF THE EPHESIANS IS THE GREATEST!

THE MOB TAKES PAUL'S FRIENDS TO THE GREAT OUTDOOR THEATER.

IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY ...

PAUL! THE SILVERSMITHS ARE AFTER YOU FOR DESTROYING THEIR BUSINESS. THEY'VE GRABBED GAIUS AND ARISTARCHUS!

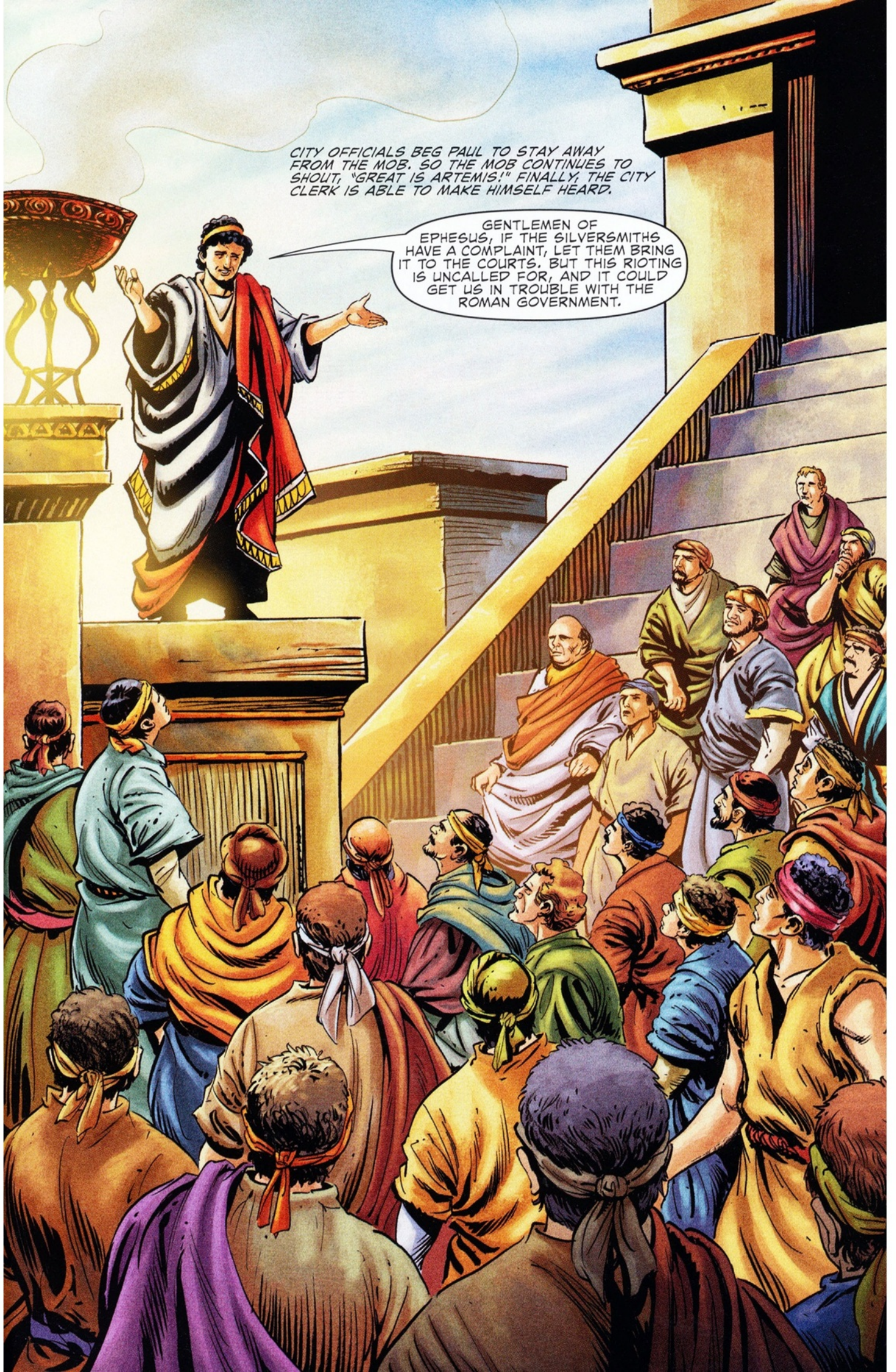
WHERE ARE THEY? I WANT TO HELP THEM.

NO! PAUL, THAT MOB WANTS TO KILL YOU.



CITY OFFICIALS BEG PAUL TO STAY AWAY FROM THE MOB. SO THE MOB CONTINUES TO SHOUT, "GREAT IS ARTEMIS!" FINALLY, THE CITY CLERK IS ABLE TO MAKE HIMSELF HEARD.

GENTLEMEN OF  
EPHESUS, IF THE SILVERSMITHS  
HAVE A COMPLAINT, LET THEM BRING  
IT TO THE COURTS. BUT THIS RIOTING  
IS UNCALLED FOR, AND IT COULD  
GET US IN TROUBLE WITH THE  
ROMAN GOVERNMENT.





THREATENED WITH ROMAN ACTION, THE RIOT BREAKS UP. PAUL SENDS FOR HIS FRIENDS.

THE MOB WAS REALLY AFTER ME. I DON'T WANT ALL OF YOU TO BE IN DANGER, SO I'LL GO TO PHILIPPI.

OUR PRAYERS GO WITH YOU.

SOON AFTER PAUL REACHES PHILIPPI, TITUS JOINS HIM WITH NEWS FROM CORINTH.

YOUR LETTER TO THE CHRISTIANS AT CORINTH MADE THEM GET BACK ON THE RIGHT PATH.

BUT NOW SOME PEOPLE CLAIM THAT YOU ARE NOT A TRUE APOSTLE OF JESUS.

ONCE AGAIN PAUL WRITES TO THE CHURCH IN CORINTH ...

### PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS ...

I can see that my first letter upset you, but I am glad I sent it. I don't want to hurt you, but to help you grow in your faith. I know that many of you are suffering, but take comfort: though we share Christ's pain, He also floods us with his comfort.

So don't lose heart! Our troubles only last for a moment, but they earn us eternal life. And life in heaven will quickly make us forget our earthly hardships. So don't focus on the things you can see—those things are temporary. It is the unseen things that are eternal.

For those who question my authority, remember this: I have been imprisoned and beaten; I have faced down death; I've been stoned and shipwrecked. And I've endured all that to carry out the work of Christ.

WHILE TITUS TAKES THE LETTER TO CORINTH, PAUL CONTINUES VISITING CHURCHES IN MACEDONIA. HE COLLECTS MONEY FOR THE POOR IN JERUSALEM. MONTHS LATER HE REACHES CORINTH, WHERE FRIENDS GREET HIM EAGERLY.

THIS MONEY WILL SHOW THE CHRISTIANS IN JERUSALEM THAT YOU'RE CONCERNED FOR THEM.



# "Falling" Asleep

BASED  
ON ACTS  
20:6-21:16

PAUL'S ENEMIES CONTINUE TO PLOT AGAINST HIM, SO HE CHANGES HIS TRAVEL PLANS TO AVOID THEM. HE AND HIS COMPANIONS TRAVEL THROUGH MACEDONIA AND ON TO TROAS. DR. LUKE JOINS THE BAND OF MISSIONARIES ONCE AGAIN.



AFTER WEEKS OF TRAVELING AND VISITING CHURCHES, PAUL HAS SO MUCH TO TELL THE PEOPLE IN TROAS THAT HE TALKS LATE INTO THE NIGHT. UNTIL ...



LOOK  
OUT!

EUTYCHUS  
FELL ASLEEP  
SITTING IN THE  
WINDOW!

PAUL RUSHES  
OUTSIDE ...



HE  
FELL FROM A  
THIRD-STORY  
WINDOW. HE'S  
DEAD!

DON'T BE  
ALARMED. HE'S  
ALIVE.

THANK  
GOD!



I'M SURE  
HE WAS DEAD!  
GOD HAS GIVEN  
PAUL AMAZING  
POWER!

PAUL TALKS UNTIL DAYBREAK, THEN SAYS GOOD-BYE TO HIS FRIENDS AND CONTINUES HIS JOURNEY.

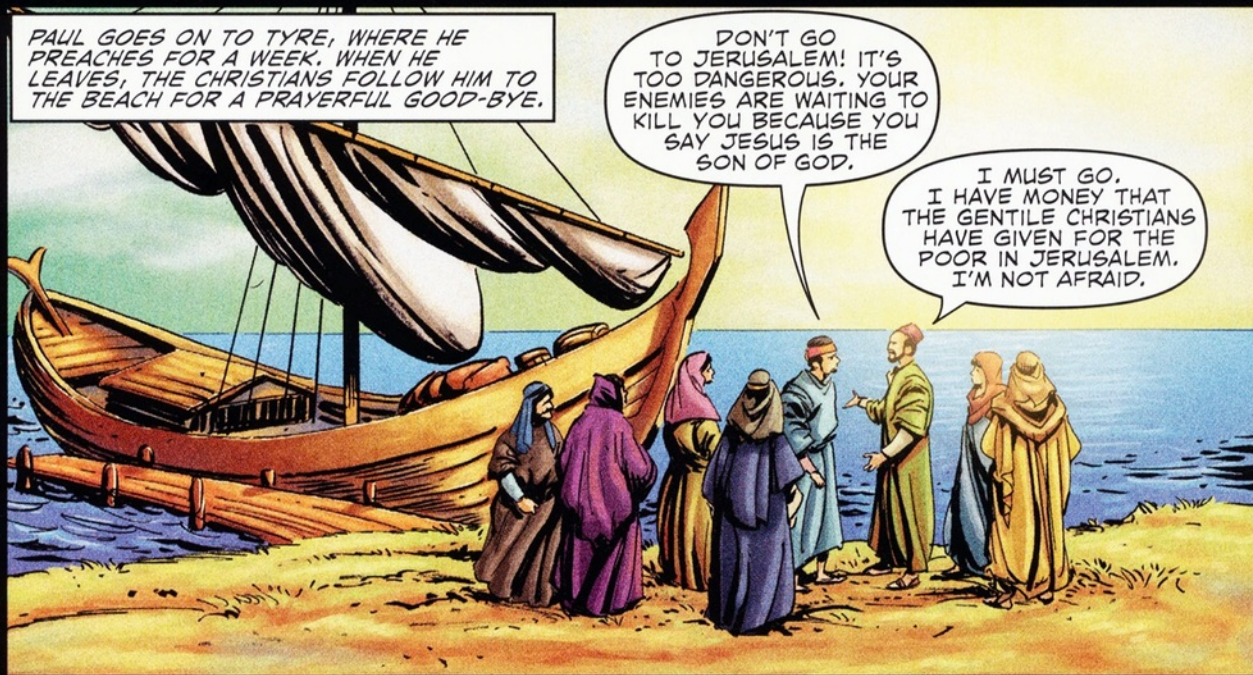


AT MILETUS, PAUL SENDS WORD FOR THE ELDERS OF EPHESUS TO MEET WITH HIM. EAGERLY, THEY TRAVEL THE 35 MILES TO SEE PAUL AGAIN.



I AM GOING TO JERUSALEM, EVEN THOUGH IT IS DANGEROUS. MY LIFE MEANS NOTHING TO ME, SO LONG AS I FINISH THE WORK JESUS GAVE ME TO DO. SINCE I WON'T SEE ANY OF YOU AGAIN, REMEMBER WHAT I'VE SHOWN YOU: WORK HARD AND HELP THE WEAK. AS JESUS SAID, "IT IS BETTER TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE."

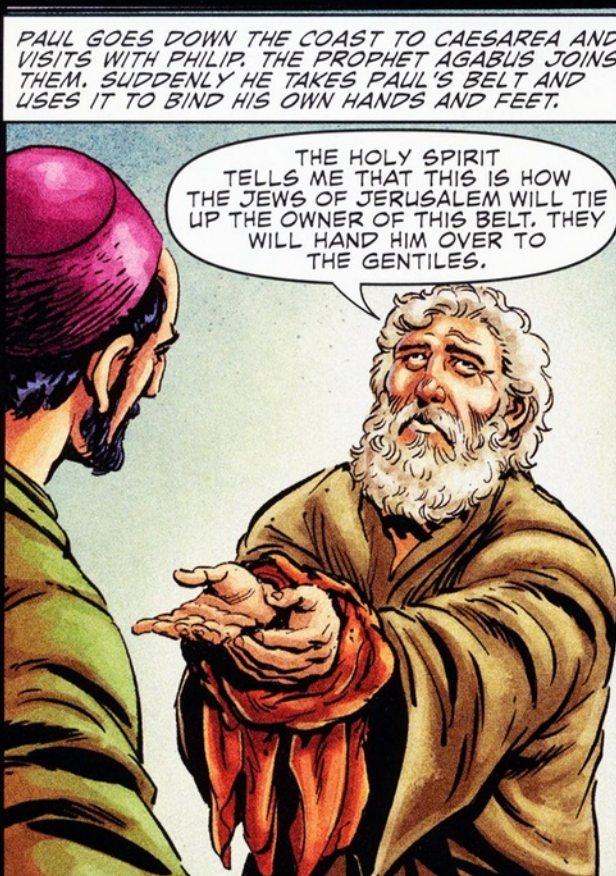
PAUL GOES ON TO TYRE, WHERE HE PREACHES FOR A WEEK. WHEN HE LEAVES, THE CHRISTIANS FOLLOW HIM TO THE BEACH FOR A PRAYERFUL GOOD-BYE.



DON'T GO TO JERUSALEM! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS. YOUR ENEMIES ARE WAITING TO KILL YOU BECAUSE YOU SAY JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD.

I MUST GO. I HAVE MONEY THAT THE GENTILE CHRISTIANS HAVE GIVEN FOR THE POOR IN JERUSALEM. I'M NOT AFRAID.

PAUL GOES DOWN THE COAST TO CAESAREA AND VISITS WITH PHILIP. THE PROPHET AGABUS JOINS THEM. SUDDENLY HE TAKES PAUL'S BELT AND USES IT TO BIND HIS OWN HANDS AND FEET.



THE HOLY SPIRIT TELLS ME THAT THIS IS HOW THE JEWS OF JERUSALEM WILL TIE UP THE OWNER OF THIS BELT. THEY WILL HAND HIM OVER TO THE GENTILES.

PAUL, CHANGE YOUR PLANS! DON'T GO TO JERUSALEM.



WHY ARE YOU CRYING? I'M READY TO GO TO PRISON. I'M EVEN READY TO DIE FOR JESUS.



# Under Arrest

BASED ON ACTS 21:15–23:22

IN JERUSALEM, PAUL MEETS WITH JAMES AND OTHER LEADERS OF THE CHURCH. HE DELIVERS THE MONEY FOR THE POOR AND TELLS WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN OTHER PLACES.

I MUST WARN YOU, PAUL. YOU HAVE ENEMIES HERE WHO THINK YOU ARE A TRAITOR. EVEN CHRISTIAN JEWS HAVE QUESTIONS BECAUSE OF YOUR WORK WITH THE GENTILES.

I'LL WORSHIP WITH THEM IN THE TEMPLE TO SHOW THAT I AM TRUE TO THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS.

JAMES' WARNING COMES TRUE WITHIN THE WEEK. WHILE PAUL IS WORSHIPPING IN THE TEMPLE, HIS ENEMIES MAKE FALSE ACCUSATIONS. THEY SAY HE BROUGHT NON-JEWS INTO THE PART OF THE TEMPLE WHERE ONLY JEWS ARE ALLOWED.

THERE HE IS—THE TRAITOR!

HE HAS MADE THIS HOLY PLACE UNCLEAN!



THE PEOPLE ANGRILY TURN AGAINST PAUL. A MOB DRAGS HIM FROM THE TEMPLE AND STARTS TO BEAT HIM.

LOOK OUT! ROMAN SOLDIERS ARE COMING!



NOW TELL US WHAT THIS MAN HAS DONE.

TAKE HIM AWAY! KILL HIM!



SINCE THEY CAN'T GET A STRAIGHT ANSWER, THE SOLDIERS TAKE PAUL AWAY. ON THE STEPS OF THE PRISON, PAUL STOPS AND TELLS THE PEOPLE HOW HE BECAME A CHRISTIAN. BUT WHEN HE MENTIONS PREACHING TO GENTILES, THE MOB GOES WILD.

HE IS NOT FIT TO LIVE!

KILL HIM!

KILL HIM!

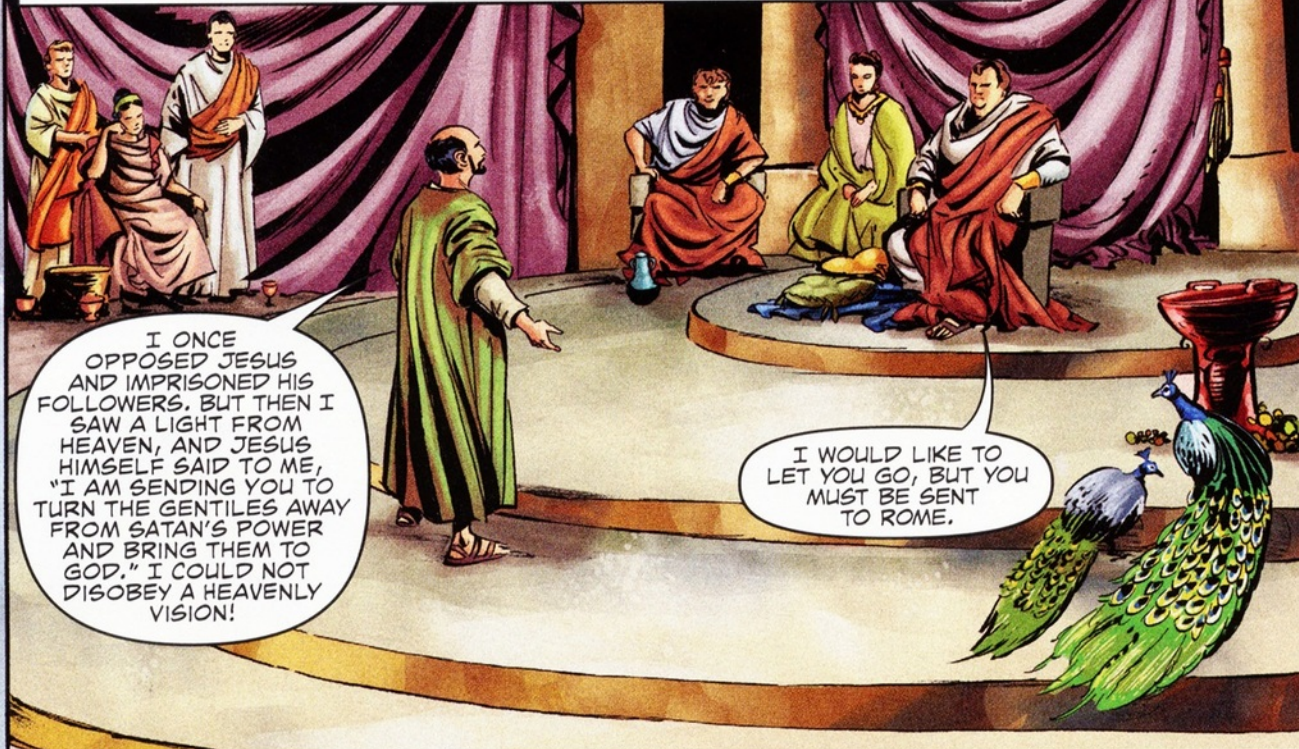




# Bound for Rome

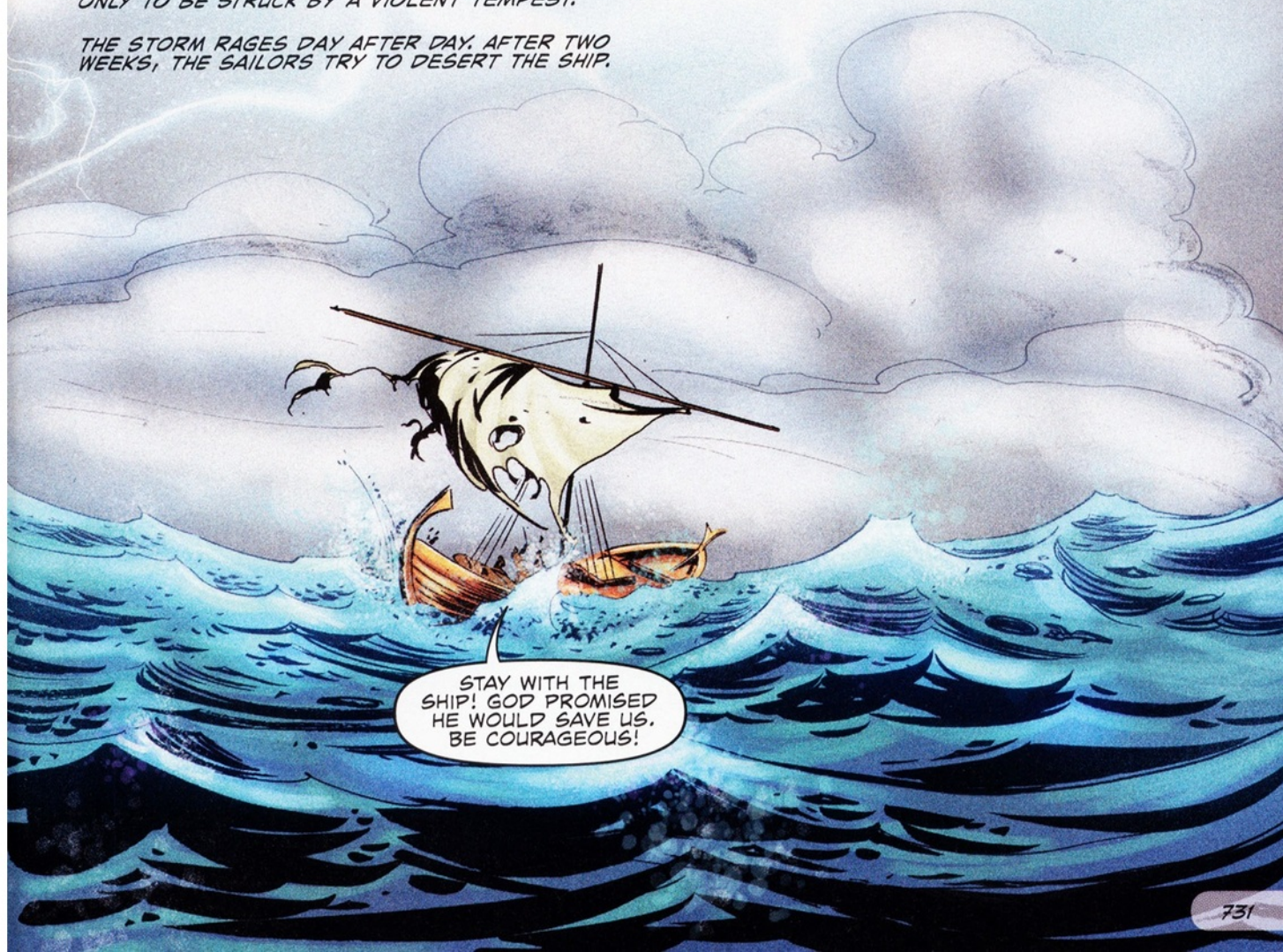
BASED ON ACTS 23:23-28:16

TO KEEP PAUL SAFE, THE ROMAN COMMANDER AT JERUSALEM SENDS HIM TO CAESAREA, WHERE PAUL STAYS IN PRISON FOR TWO YEARS. THEN PAUL APPEARS BEFORE FESTUS, THE ROMAN GOVERNOR, AND DEMANDS HIS RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY THE EMPEROR, NERO, IN ROME. BUT FIRST FESTUS TAKES PAUL BEFORE A NEIGHBORING RULER, KING AGRIPPA, WHO IS VISITING THE CITY.



UNDER ROMAN GUARD, PAUL BOARDS A SHIP BOUND FOR ROME FOR HIS TRIAL. DR. LUKE GOES WITH HIM. THE SHIP SETS SAIL, ONLY TO BE STRUCK BY A VIOLENT TEMPEST.

THE STORM RAGES DAY AFTER DAY. AFTER TWO WEEKS, THE SAILORS TRY TO DESERT THE SHIP.





IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM, PAUL THANKS GOD FOR THEIR FOOD. HE PROMISES THAT EVERYONE WILL SURVIVE, BUT THE SHIP WILL SINK. AT DAYBREAK ...

LAND  
AHEAD!

HEADING TOWARD A  
BAY, THE SHIP HITS  
A SANDBAR. THE  
FRONT OF THE SHIP  
IS STUCK, AND THE  
POUNDING WAVES  
BREAK THE BACK OF  
THE SHIP TO PIECES.

ABANDON  
SHIP!

KILL  
THE PRISONERS!  
IF THEY REACH  
SHORE, THEY'LL  
ESCAPE.

BECAUSE OF HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH PAUL, THE  
ROMAN OFFICER SPARES THE LIVES OF THE  
PRISONERS. SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AND PRISONERS  
STRUGGLE FOR THEIR LIVES IN THE WILD SEA.



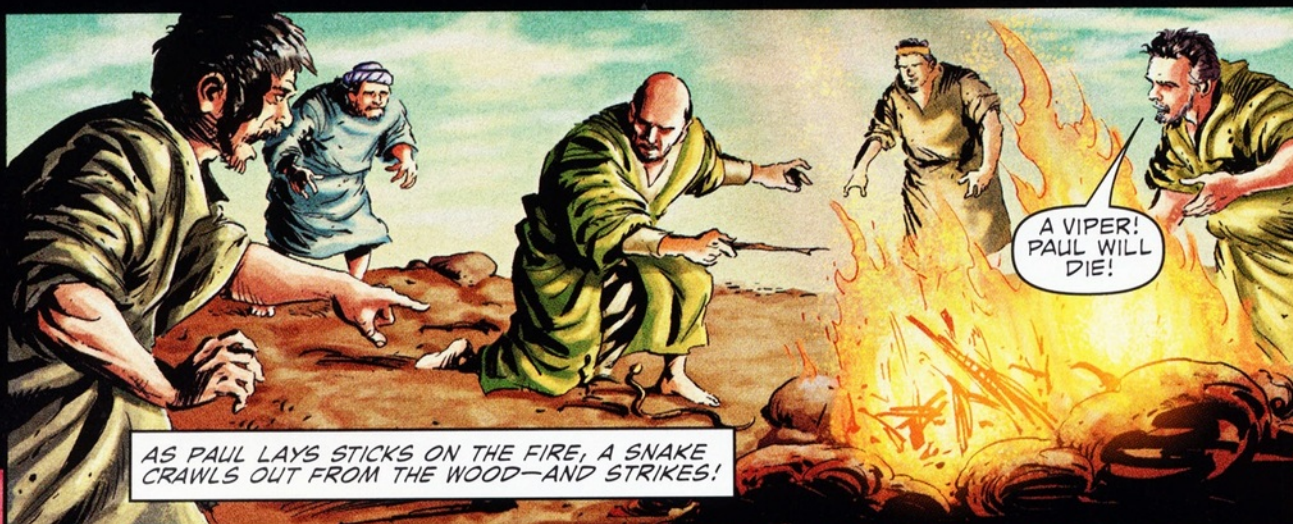


JUST AS GOD TOLD PAUL, EVERY MAN ON BOARD REACHES LAND SAFELY. PEOPLE ON THE ISLAND OF MALTA RUSH DOWN TO THE SHORE TO HELP THE VICTIMS OF THE WRECK.



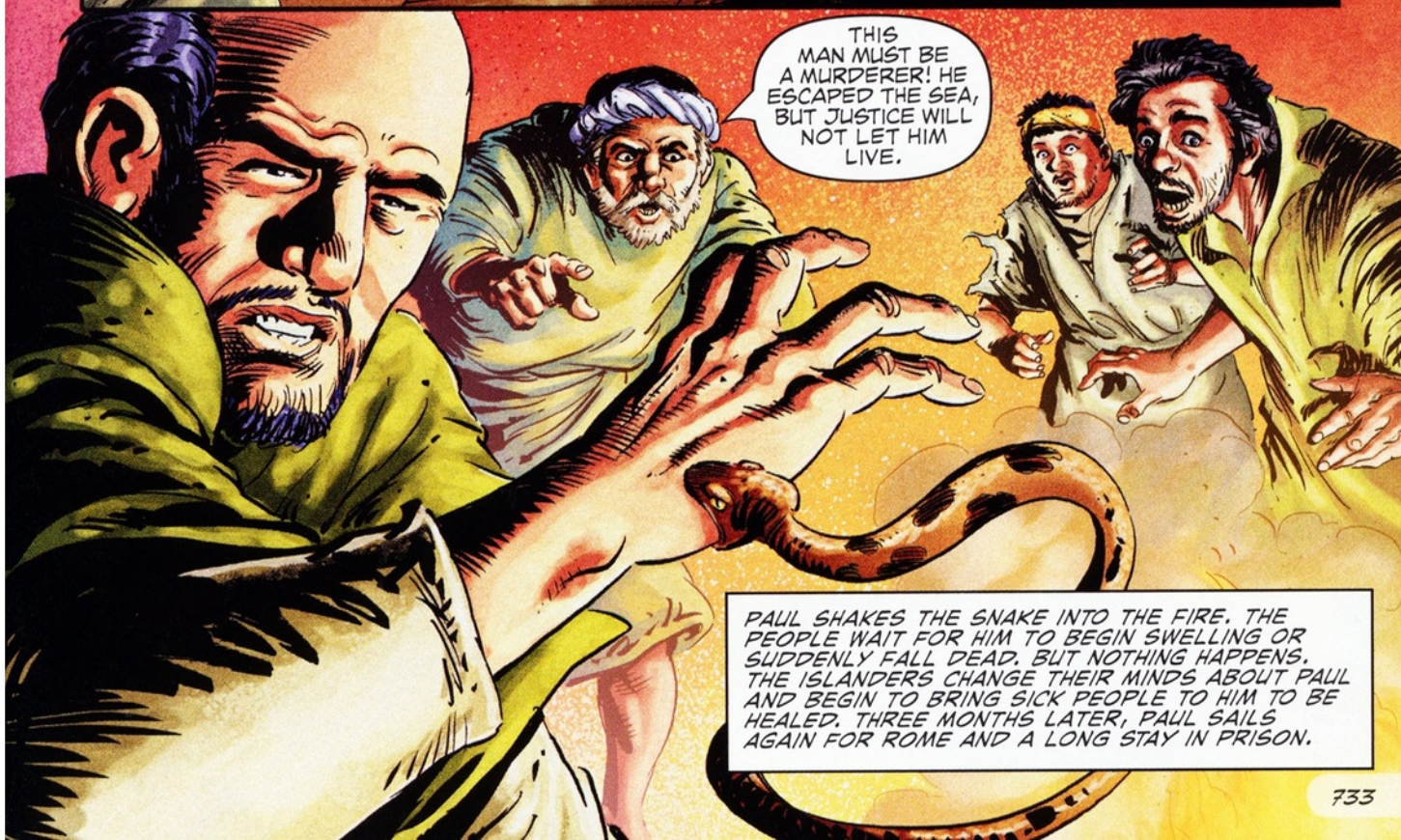
WE'LL HAVE A FIRE GOING SOON.

I'LL GET SOME MORE WOOD.



AS PAUL LAYS STICKS ON THE FIRE, A SNAKE CRAWLS OUT FROM THE WOOD—AND STRIKES!

A VIPER! PAUL WILL DIE!



THIS MAN MUST BE A MURDERER! HE ESCAPED THE SEA, BUT JUSTICE WILL NOT LET HIM LIVE.

PAUL SHAKES THE SNAKE INTO THE FIRE. THE PEOPLE WAIT FOR HIM TO BEGIN SWELLING OR SUDDENLY FALL DEAD. BUT NOTHING HAPPENS. THE ISLANDERS CHANGE THEIR MINDS ABOUT PAUL AND BEGIN TO BRING SICK PEOPLE TO HIM TO BE HEALED. THREE MONTHS LATER, PAUL SAILS AGAIN FOR ROME AND A LONG STAY IN PRISON.



# Prison Pen Pals

BASED ON EPHESIANS; PHILIPPIANS; COLOSSIANS; PHILEMON

FOR MONTHS PAUL IS UNDER HOUSE ARREST AS HE WAITS FOR HIS TRIAL BEFORE THE EMPEROR IN ROME. HIS CHRISTIAN FRIENDS IN ALL THE CHURCHES PRAY FOR HIM CONSTANTLY. ONE DAY ...



WHILE IN ROME, EPAPHRODITUS BECOMES ILL. CHRISTIANS IN THE CITY GLADLY TAKE CARE OF HIM.





AS SOON AS HE IS WELL,  
EPAPHRODITUS GOES TO  
SEE PAUL.

EPAPHRODITUS,  
I'M SO THANKFUL  
YOU'VE RECOVERED.  
ON YOUR WAY HOME TO  
COLOSSE, WILL YOU  
TAKE SOME LETTERS  
WITH YOU?

ALSO, HAVE  
TYCHICUS CHECK IN  
TO SEE IF PHILEMON  
AND ONESIMUS  
HAVE MADE  
PEACE.

# PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS ...

Don't be selfish or prideful. Be like Christ—even though He was God, He humbled Himself and became human. He even died on the cross for us. We can do everything God asks, because Jesus gives us strength.

# ... AND TO THE COLOSSIANS ...

But Christ wasn't just a man. He was truly God—just in human form. Jesus is all we need.

# ... AND TO THE EPHESIANS ...

It is His grace that saves you through your faith. There is nothing you can do yourself to be saved, so don't bother boasting. Just do the good things God created you to do on this earth.

TWO YEARS GO BY, AND FINALLY PAUL'S  
CASE IS BROUGHT TO COURT. PAUL  
DEFENDS HIMSELF BEFORE NERO, THE  
MOST POWERFUL RULER IN THE WORLD.

PAUL!  
THE COURT  
HAS SET YOU  
FREE!

THANK GOD!  
NOW I CAN CARRY  
OUT MY DREAM TO TAKE  
THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT  
JESUS TO THE FARTHEST  
CORNERS OF THE  
EMPIRE.



### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ...

IN THE YEAR 64, NERO, THE CRUEL EMPEROR OF ROME, HAS MANY ENEMIES AMONG HIS OWN PEOPLE. RUMORS SPREAD ABOUT PLOTS ON HIS LIFE. SUDDENLY A FIRE SWEEPS ACROSS THE CITY AND RAGES FOR NINE DAYS. GREAT SECTIONS OF THE CITY BURN TO THE GROUND, DRIVING THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FROM THEIR HOMES.









FROM ROME,  
PAUL WRITES  
HIS FINAL  
LETTERS ...

## ***Fight the Good Fight*** BASED ON TITUS; 2 TIMOTHY

### **PAUL'S LETTER TO TITUS ...**

We followers of Christ must be good examples to the world. Be honest and serious, careful about what you say. That way, your enemies will be embarrassed, because no one will believe anything bad about you.

### **PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO TIMOTHY ...**

Be strong, like a soldier for Christ. Remember the truth you learned from me and the Scriptures. Keep preaching it, even though the time will come when people don't want to hear the truth. Follow Scripture, because it is all inspired by God, and it equips us to do good.

PAUL'S CASE COMES TO TRIAL. GUARDS  
MARCH HIM INTO THE COURT OF NERO ...





NERO CONDEMNS PAUL TO DEATH. GUARDS TAKE HIM OUTSIDE THE CITY TO BEHEAD HIM.

I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT. I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE. I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH.

SO DEATH COMES TO PAUL, WHO STARTED CHRISTIAN CHURCHES ON TWO CONTINENTS. MANY OF PAUL'S LETTERS BECAME BOOKS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.\*

BUT PAUL'S DEATH DOES NOT MEAN THE END OF SPREADING THE GOSPEL. THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS MARCHES ON THROUGHOUT THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND ACROSS THE WORLD.

\*ALTHOUGH THE BIBLE DOES NOT TELL US ABOUT PAUL'S TRIAL AND EXECUTION, EARLY CHRISTIAN TRADITION TELLS US HE WAS BEHEADED DURING NERO'S PERSECUTION.



# The Final Letters

BASED ON HEBREWS—JUDE

THE LAST EIGHT LETTERS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, HEBREWS THROUGH JUDE, ARE MESSAGES THAT JESUS' DISCIPLES WROTE TO GIVE ADVICE, COURAGE, AND COMFORT TO THE EARLY CHRISTIANS.



## THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS WAS WRITTEN WHEN JEWISH CHRISTIANS WERE BEING PRESSURED TO GIVE UP THEIR FAITH IN JESUS AND RETURN TO THEIR JEWISH TRADITIONS. THEY ASKED THEMSELVES, WHICH IS RIGHT: FAITH IN JESUS OR FAITH IN THE RELIGION OF ABRAHAM, MOSES, AND DAVID?

In the past, God spoke to our people through the prophets. But in these last days, He has spoken to us through His Son. All the faith heroes of the past looked forward to Jesus, even though He didn't come during their lifetime. Now that Jesus has come, throw away your sin and run the good race, because Jesus is waiting for us at the finish line. While you're running, remember what God said to us: "I will never leave you."

## THE BOOK OF JAMES

THE LEADER OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM, JAMES, THE BROTHER OF JESUS, WROTE A LETTER TO ENCOURAGE CHRISTIANS TO LIVE IN WAYS THAT SHOW THEIR FAITH.

Faith is meaningless unless you do something with it. Take care of the helpless. Ask God for wisdom, and keep your lives pure from the muck that surrounds you. Then your prayers will be powerful and change the world.

## THE BOOK OF 1 PETER

PETER WROTE TO ENCOURAGE THE CHRISTIANS WHO WERE BEING PERSECUTED. LIKE PAUL, HE WAS ALSO EXECUTED BY THE ROMANS.

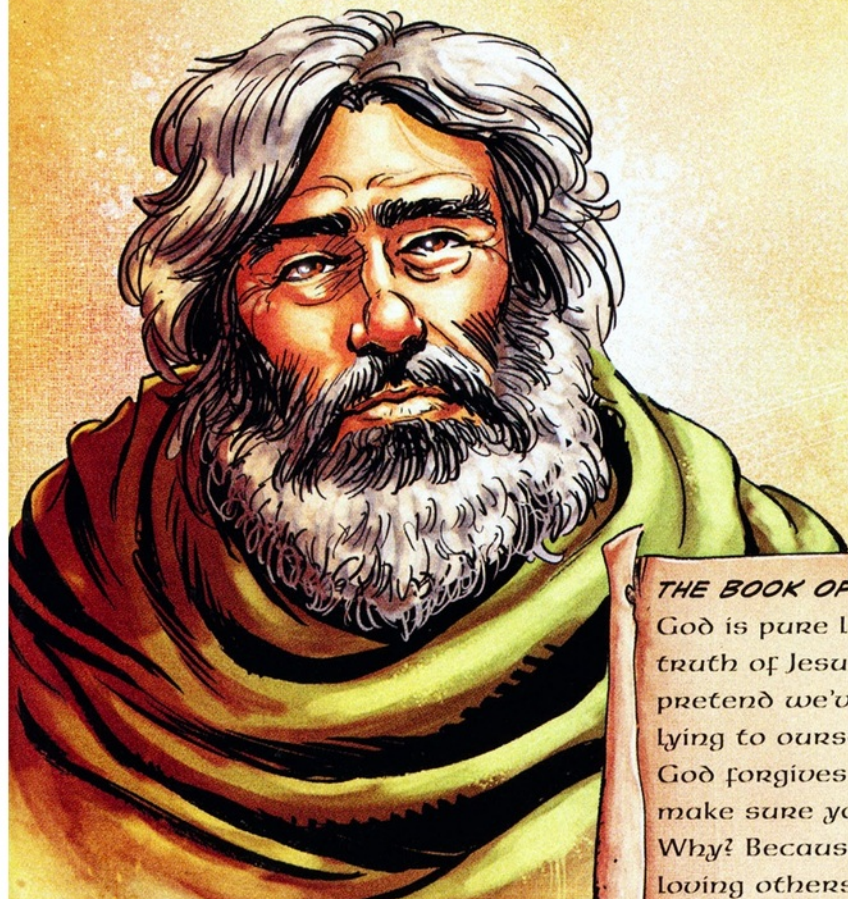
Face your hardships bravely. God chose you to be His royal priesthood and His holy nation. Even though the devil prowls like a lion to destroy you, stand firm.

## THE BOOK OF 2 PETER

Don't be deceived by those who spread lies to mislead you. They'll get what they deserve when Christ returns. Don't be impatient waiting for Christ; God is taking His time so that people have a chance to repent.



*JOHN, THE APOSTLE JESUS LOVED, WAS THE ONLY DISCIPLE WHO WAS NOT EXECUTED FOR HIS FAITH. HE LIVED TO AN OLD AGE, EXILED TO A GREEK ISLAND IN THE AEGEAN SEA. HE WROTE THREE LETTERS ABOUT GOD'S NATURE AND HOW CHRISTIANS SHOULD TREAT EACH OTHER.*



#### **THE BOOK OF 1 JOHN**

God is pure light. Anyone who denies the truth of Jesus walks in darkness. If we pretend we've never sinned, then we're only lying to ourselves. But if we admit our sins, God forgives us and cleans us. My friends, make sure you show love to each other. Why? Because love comes from God, and by loving others we know God even better.

#### **THE BOOK OF 2 JOHN**

I am glad to hear that you are obeying God's commands and loving one another. Beware of enemies of the truth. These people say that Christ was just a man. Don't let them hang around you and do not invite them home! I have much to say, but not with pen and ink—I cannot wait to talk with all of you face-to-face.



#### **THE BOOK OF 3 JOHN**

You are doing right by receiving Christians into your home, especially traveling preachers. Your kindness helps in their work. Don't copy evil. Imitate what is good. Never let anyone stop you from doing good things. Peace to you.

**JUDE WAS ANOTHER BROTHER OF JESUS WHO WROTE TO DEFEND TRUTH AGAINST FALSE TEACHERS.**

#### **THE BOOK OF JUDE**

Dear friends, you must defend our Christian truth. Build up your faith, and pray with the help of the Holy Spirit. Have mercy for those who doubt, so you can save them from the fire of fear.



# The Final Days

BASED ON REVELATION

MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE JESUS CAME BACK TO LIFE AND ROSE UP TO HEAVEN. PAUL AND PETER HAVE DIED DOING THE WORK OF THE LORD. JOHN—JESUS' BELOVED DISCIPLE AND FRIEND—IS THE LAST APOSTLE LEFT. JESUS VISITS HIM IN ONE FINAL VISION, WHERE HE REVEALS WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE END OF TIME.

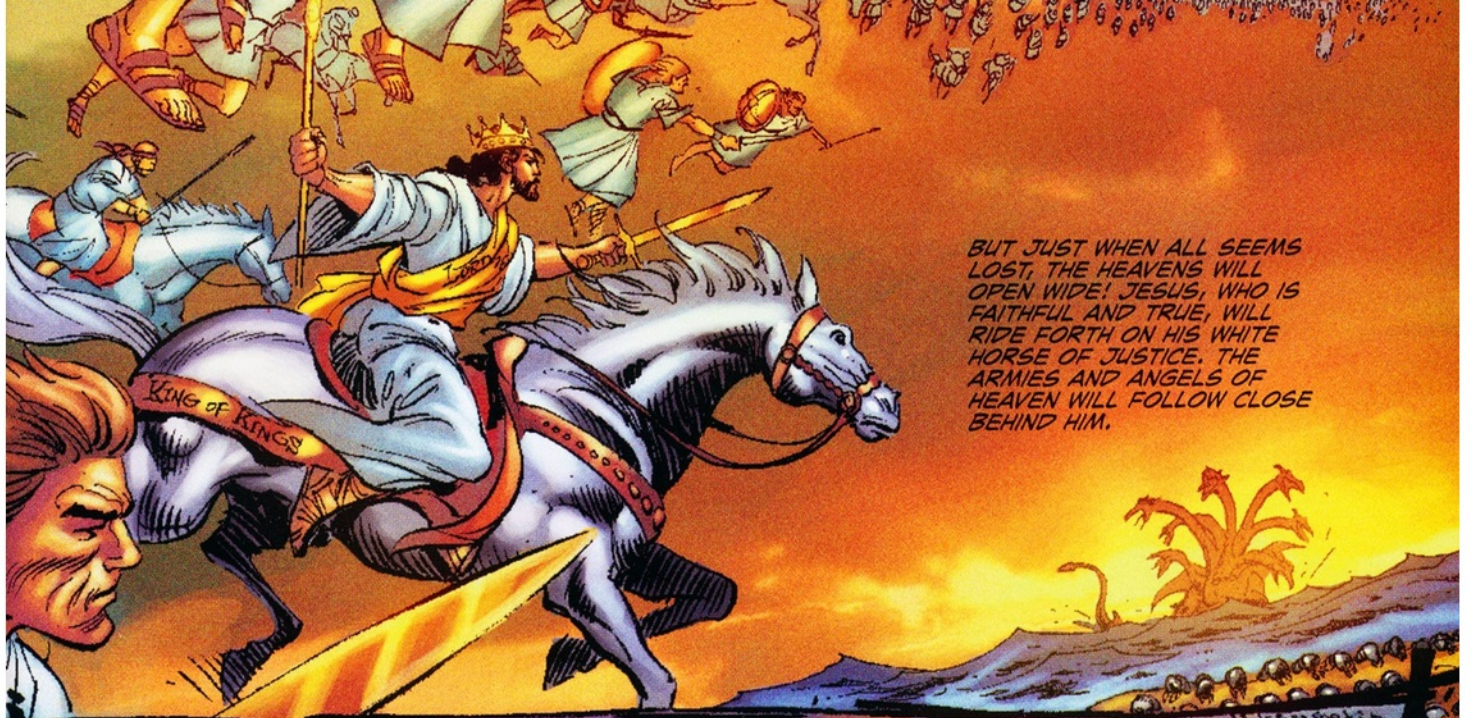
DO NOT BE AFRAID. I AM THE FIRST AND THE LAST, WHO LIVES FOREVER AND EVER. I HOLD THE KEYS TO DEATH AND HELL.

IN THE END DAYS, FOUR HORSEMEN WILL RIDE FORTH. FIRST A CONQUEROR, ON A WHITE HORSE. THEN WAR, RIDING ON A RED HORSE. THIRD WILL COME FAMINE, ON A BLACK HORSE, AND FINALLY, DEATH WILL COME FORTH ON A PALE HORSE, WITH HELL FOLLOWING CLOSE BEHIND HIM.

AS THE FOUR HORSEMEN RIDE THROUGH THE SKY, AN EARTHQUAKE SHAKES THE LAND. THE SUN TURNS BLACK, THE MOON TURNS RED, AND THE STARS IN THE SKY FALL TO THE EARTH. MANY PEOPLE ARE KILLED BY WAR, PLAGUES, FAMINE—EVEN BY WILD ANIMALS!

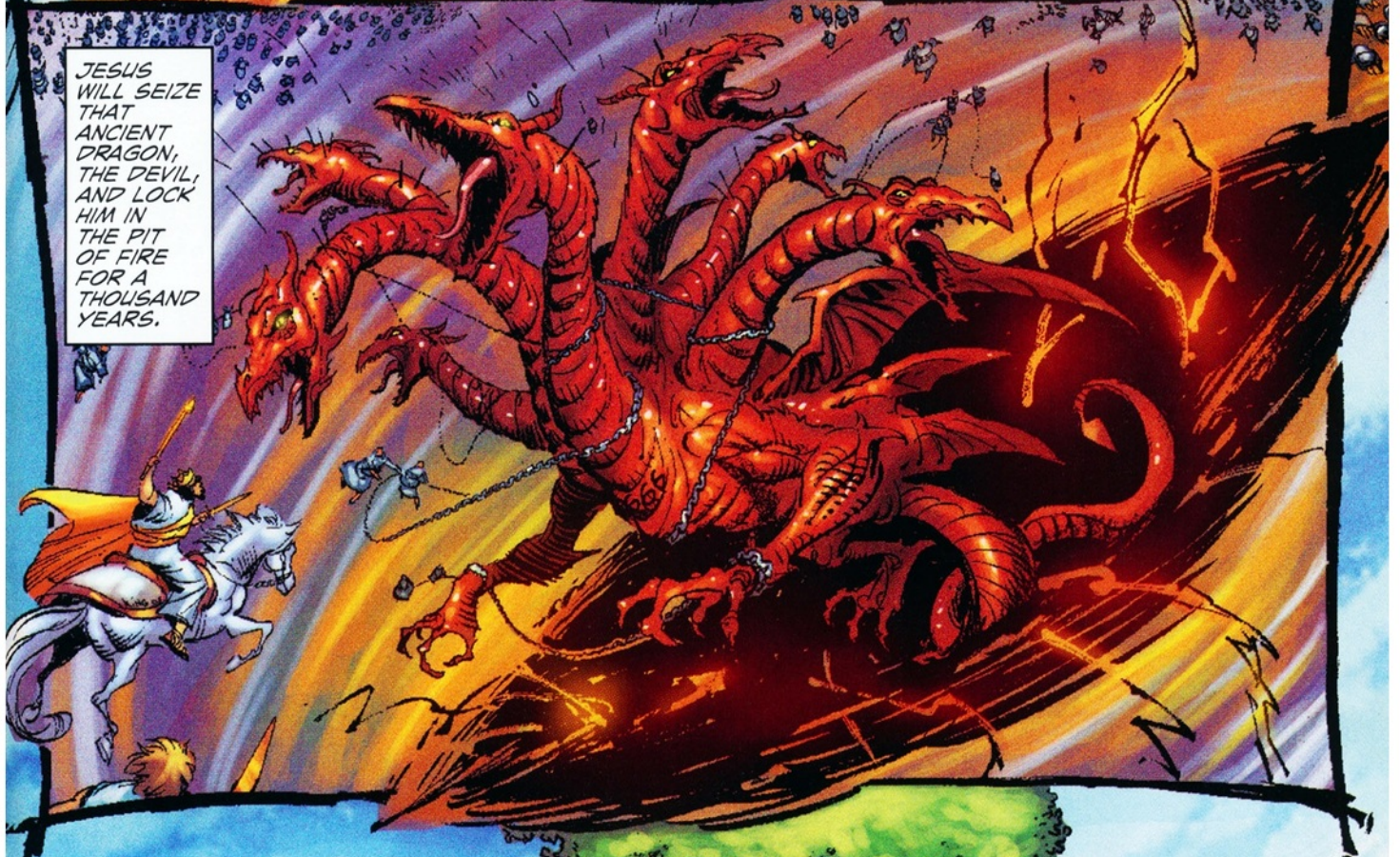
AFTER THE FOUR HORSEMEN FINISH BRINGING THEIR SUFFERING TO THE EARTH, THE DEVIL WILL COME IN THE FORM OF A RED DRAGON. HE WILL PERFORM MIRACLES, RAINING FIRE DOWN FROM HEAVEN. THE PEOPLE WILL BE DECEIVED AND WORSHIP HIM.



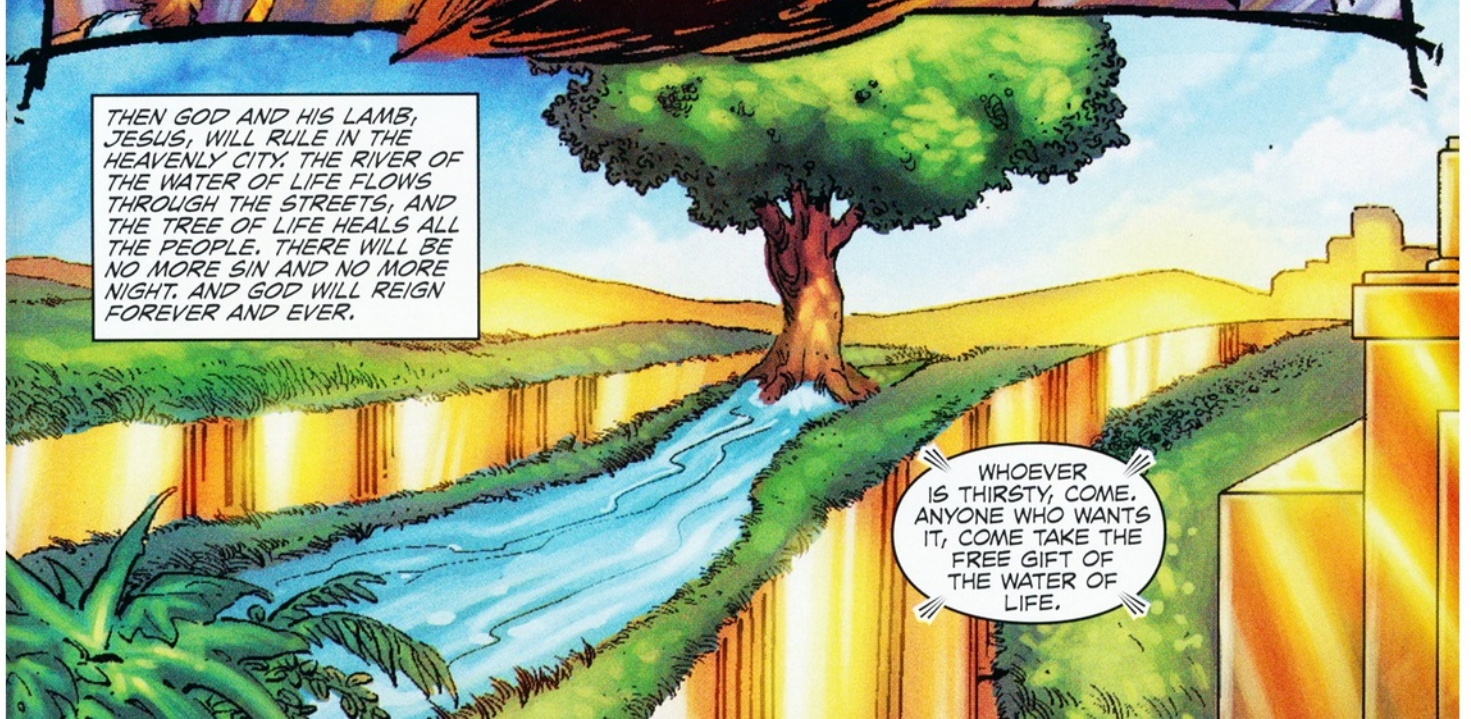


BUT JUST WHEN ALL SEEMS LOST, THE HEAVENS WILL OPEN WIDE! JESUS, WHO IS FAITHFUL AND TRUE, WILL RIDE FORTH ON HIS WHITE HORSE OF JUSTICE. THE ARMIES AND ANGELS OF HEAVEN WILL FOLLOW CLOSE BEHIND HIM.

JESUS WILL SEIZE THAT ANCIENT DRAGON, THE DEVIL, AND LOCK HIM IN THE PIT OF FIRE FOR A THOUSAND YEARS.



THEN GOD AND HIS LAMB, JESUS, WILL RULE IN THE HEAVENLY CITY. THE RIVER OF THE WATER OF LIFE FLOWS THROUGH THE STREETS, AND THE TREE OF LIFE HEALS ALL THE PEOPLE. THERE WILL BE NO MORE SIN AND NO MORE NIGHT. AND GOD WILL REIGN FOREVER AND EVER.



WHOEVER IS THIRSTY, COME. ANYONE WHO WANTS IT, COME TAKE THE FREE GIFT OF THE WATER OF LIFE.



THROUGH THE PROPHECY IN REVELATION, JESUS GIVES JOHN A MESSAGE FOR THE SEVEN CHURCHES IN ASIA. SOME PEOPLE AT THOSE CHURCHES HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS. SOME HAVE TURNED AWAY FROM JESUS BECAUSE IT WAS TOO HARD TO FOLLOW HIM. AND SOME JUST WANT THINGS TO BE EASY. JESUS' WORDS TO THESE CHURCHES ARE STILL RELEVANT TO US TODAY.

"I KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING, AND IT'S NEITHER HOT NOR COLD. I WISH YOU'D BE ONE OR THE OTHER.

BECAUSE YOU ARE LUKEWARM—NEITHER COLD NOR HOT—I WILL SPIT YOU OUT OF MY MOUTH.

YOU THINK YOU ARE RICH, BUT YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW POOR, BLIND, AND NAKED YOU ARE.

TAKE THE WEALTH I GIVE YOU, AND YOU WILL TRULY BE RICH. MY WHITE CLOTHES WILL COVER YOUR SINFUL NAKEDNESS. THE SALVE I GIVE YOU WILL LET YOU SEE!"

"HERE I AM! I'M STANDING AT THE DOOR AND KNOCKING. ANYONE WHO HEARS MY VOICE AND OPENS THE DOOR WILL SHARE MY FOOD AND MY THRONE IN HEAVEN!

JOHN'S VISION ENDS THE BIBLE, THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD.

JESUS STANDS AT THE DOOR AND KNOCKS. WILL YOU LET HIM IN?