

### Handout: Acts Lesson 10

Paul's reasons for the journey to Jerusalem (see Acts 20:22; 24:17; Rom 15:25-26; 1 Cor 16:1-4; 2 Cor 8:10; 9:1-15).

1. Paul has to go to Jerusalem because the Holy Spirit compels him to go and Paul will not disobey God.
2. Paul was delivering the offering the Gentile churches of Greece and Asia Minor had collected for the poor saints in Jerusalem.

Paul's coming suffering in Jerusalem was prophesied three times:

1. The Holy Spirit revealed to Paul his coming suffering in Acts 20:22-23.
2. The Holy Spirit revealed Paul's coming suffering to the Christians of Tyre in Acts 21:4.
3. Agabus' prophecy in Acts 21:11.

The four accusations made against Paul by the Jews in 21:28:

1. He is accused of teaching against the people.
2. He is accused of teaching against the Law.
3. He is accused of speaking against the Temple.
4. He is accused of profaning the Temple by bringing Gentiles into the Temple.

Paul's fourth long speech to the Jewish crowd in Jerusalem is given in four parts:

1. His pedigree as a religiously observant Jew  
His persecution of "the Way" (Christians)
2. His conversion experience
3. His divinely ordered mission to the Gentiles

**Conversion story: New information:** Paul saw a great light from the sky shone around him at noon. Jesus identifies himself as "the Nazorean." Paul asks the question, "What shall I do, Lord." He reveals a vision of Jesus while praying in the Jerusalem Temple where Jesus tells him the Jews of Jerusalem will not receive his testimony. Retelling the vision, Paul recalls his former persecution of Christians a second time followed by his commissioning by Christ to preach Christ to the Gentiles.

**Different testimony:** In the first account his companions heard the voice but could see no one and in the second account his companions saw the light but heard nothing. However, it could be that his companions saw the light (22:9) but did not see anyone (9:7). They did not see the glorified Christ but they heard a voice (9:7); however, they could not understand what was said (22:9).

**What Paul intentionally leaves out of the second account:** He tailors his account to his audience: He does not mention the street in Damascus where he stayed or the three days that he was blind when he did not eat or drink from the first account. He only identifies Ananias as a devout Jew held in esteem by the Jewish community in Damascus and does not mention that Ananias was a Christian. He does not mention Ananias' vision of Christ and does not mention Jesus' prophecy to Ananias of Paul's coming suffering and commissioning as Jesus' instrument of conversion to the Gentiles. He does not mention that the Jews of Damascus wanted to kill him and that this caused his hasty departure.