



KINGDOM EMBASSY MINISTRIES

Remembering our Roots. Restoring Authority. Maturing Disciples. Advancing the Kingdom.

Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Acts 16-18
- Job 13:15-16
- Numbers 6:21

Title:

A MAN ON A MISSION

- Adventures in Philippi
- Envious or Readiness
- Philosophers and Accusers

He's a man on a mission. It was not easy the first time; in fact, it almost killed him. But he's willing to do it again, and this time it will be longer and further than before. It's inspired and will be directed by visions from God. "I want to examine the fruit of my work. Was it all worth it? I want to strengthen those who've been touched by God and I want to touch many more people with the truth. I want to go whenever and wherever God directs!"

But, it almost killed him the first time. Actually, those that wanted him dead thought they had killed him. But he got right up when they were not looking, bloodied and broken, smashed and dented by stones, bruised and beaten, and he kept on going. What would be different this time? This predictably is how man reacts when you challenge his long-held beliefs. But he's a man on a mission and nothing is going to stop him. What about you?

The times have changed; a few thousand years have passed, but man, not so much. Challenge a belief system, expose lies to the truth, and man will oftentimes become violent. It's still happening today; it's all around us. Speak truth to the establishment and you will be censured and censored; lied about and attacked; charged and charged at; apprehended and incarcerated; and removed from the public square or removed from life itself.

It's a different time, but have times really changed? Has man really changed? Paul was a man on a mission and the call for each of you, in your own special way, is to be a people on a mission, even if those within the sound of your voice become violent—even if you are censured and censored; lied about and attacked; charged and charged at; apprehended and incarcerated. Yes, even if there is an attempt to remove you from the public square or remove you from life itself, will you accept the mission?

PROPHETIC SEED:

"And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them." Acts 16:9-10 NKJV

"These [Bereans] were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so." Acts 17:11 NKJV

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

"but [Paul] took leave of them, saying, 'I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing.' And he sailed from Ephesus." Acts 18:21 NKJV

ADVENTURES IN PHILIPPI

1. Yet Another Vision

A. Derbe and Lystra

(1) Timothy Joins Paul and Silas (**Acts 16:1-5**)

- (a) Paul wanted to revisit the cities of his first missionary journey to check on the new converts and he arrives in Derbe and Lystra.

1. "Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named **Timothy**, the **son of a certain Jewish woman** who believed, but his father was Greek. He was **well spoken of** by the brethren who were at **Lystra and Iconium**. Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he **took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek**. And as they went through the cities, they **delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem**. So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily." Acts 16:1-5 NKJV
2. *"For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but **he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.**"* Romans 2:28-29 NKJV
3. **And yet...** *"What advantage then has the Jew, or **what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way!** Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God."* Romans 3:1-2 NKJV
4. ***"Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me. And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain. Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised. And this occurred because of false brethren** secretly brought in (who came in by stealth **to spy out our liberty** which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage), to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you."* Galatians 2:1-5 NKJV

B. We're Going to Macedonia

(1) The Macedonian Call (**Acts 16:6-10**)

- (a) Come over to Macedonia...
 1. "Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were **forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia**. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but **the Spirit did not permit them**. So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. And **a vision appeared to Paul in the night**. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, **"Come over to Macedonia and help us."** Now after he had seen the vision, **immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that** the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them." Acts 16:6-10 NKJV

C. Philippi

(1) Lydia Baptized at Philippi (**Acts 16:11-15**)

- (a) The Foremost City

1. "Therefore, sailing from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day came to Neapolis, and from there to **Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia**, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days. And **on the Sabbath day** we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was **a seller of purple** from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. **The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul**. And when she and **her household were baptized**, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us." Acts 16:11-15 NKJV
2. *"She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple."* Proverbs 31:22 NKJV

D. Persecution in Philippi

(1) Paul and Silas are Imprisoned in Philippi for Ruining a Lucrative Fortune-Telling Racket **(16:16-24)**

(a) Don't Mess with My Money!

1. "Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain **slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us**, who **brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling**. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, **"These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation."** And this she did for many days. But **Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her."** And he came out that very hour. But **when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas** and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, **"These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe."** Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. **And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison**, commanding the jailer to **keep them securely**. Having received such a charge, **he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks."** Acts 16:16-24 NKJV

E. Miracle in Philippi

(1) The Philippian Jailer Saved **(Acts 16:25-34)**

(a) How do Paul and Silas react to their beating and imprisonment?

1. "But at midnight Paul and Silas were **praying and singing hymns to God**, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was **a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed**. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was **about to kill himself**. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, **"Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."** Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, **"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"** So they said, **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."** Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. **And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes**. And **immediately he and**

all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.” Acts 16:25-34 NKJV

2. How do Paul and Silas respond? They take a page out of Job’s book! *“**Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him. He also shall be my salvation, For a hypocrite could not come before Him.**”* Job 13:15-16 NKJV

F. Grace in Philippi

(1) Paul is asked to Depart Secretly (**Acts 16:35-40**)

(a) The judges of the city intended to release Paul and Silas that day and they sent officers to bring word.

1. “And when it was day, **the magistrates sent the officers, saying, “Let those men go.”** So the keeper of the prison reported these words to Paul, saying, **“The magistrates have sent to let you go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace.”** But Paul said to them, **“They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out.”** And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they **heard that they were Romans.** Then they came and **pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to depart from the city.** So they went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.” Acts 16:35-40 NKJV
2. Pray in secret a secret place and be rewarded openly! *“But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and **your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.**”* Matthew 6:6 NKJV

ENVIOUS OR READINESS

2. Closed Minded Open Minded

A. Thessalonica

(1) Preaching in Thessalonica (**Acts 17:1-4**)

(a) Explain and Demonstrate Christ using the Scriptures

1. “Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to **Thessalonica**, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. **Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating** that the **Christ** had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, **“This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.”** And **some** of them were **persuaded**; and a great multitude of the **devout Greeks**, and not a few of the **leading women**, joined Paul and Silas.” Acts 17:1-4 NKJV

(2) Assault on Jason’s House (**Acts 17:5-9**)

(a) Just as we’ve seen before, the Jews who did not believe became jealous.

1. “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. 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. Jason has**

harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king— Jesus.” And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things. So when they had **taken security** from Jason and the rest, they let them go.” Acts 17:5-9 NKJV

2. Jealousy is Ugly *“But when **the Jews** saw the multitudes, they were **filled with envy**; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.”* Acts 13:45 NKJV

B. Berea

(1) Ministering in Berea (Acts 17:10-15)

- (a) The local church thought it best to have Paul and Silas leave Thessalonica and head to Berea.
 1. “Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to **Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.** These were **more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica**, in that they **received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed,** and also **not a few of the Greeks, prominent women** as well as men. But when the **Jews from Thessalonica** learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and **stirred up the crowds.** Then immediately the brethren sent Paul away, to go to the sea; but both **Silas and Timothy remained there.** So those who conducted Paul **brought him to Athens;** and receiving a command for **Silas and Timothy to come to him** with all speed, they departed.” Acts 17:10-15 NKJV

PHILOSOPHERS AND ACCUSERS

3. The Gospel Makes its Way to Greece

A. Athens

(1) The Philosophers in Athens (Acts 17:16-21)

- (a) A City Given Over to Many Idols!
 1. “Now while Paul waited for them at **Athens**, his spirit was provoked within him when **he saw that the city was given over to idols.** Therefore **he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily** with those who happened to be there. Then **certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him.** And some said, “What does this **babbler** want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a **proclaimer of foreign gods,**” because he **preached to them Jesus and the resurrection.** And they took him and **brought him to the Areopagus,** saying, “**May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak?** For you are bringing some **strange things** to our ears. Therefore **we want to know what these things mean.**” For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there **spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.**” Acts 17:16-21 NKJV

(2) Addressing the Areopagus (Acts 17:22-34)

- (a) I perceive that you you are quite religious...
 1. “Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, **I perceive that in all things you are very religious;** for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, **I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.** Therefore, **the One whom you worship without**

knowing, Him I proclaim to you: “God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, **does not dwell in temples** made with hands. **Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands**, as though He needed anything, since **He gives to all life, breath, and all things**. And **He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth**, and has **determined** their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, **though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being**, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’ Therefore, **since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising**. Truly, **these times of ignorance God overlooked**, but **now commands all men everywhere to repent**, because **He has appointed a day on which He will judge** the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. **He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead**.” And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, **some mocked**, while **others said, “We will hear you again on this matter.”** So Paul departed from among them. However, **some men joined him and believed**, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.” Acts 17:22-34 NKJV

B. Corinth

(1) Ministering in Corinth (Acts 18:1-17)

(a) Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.

1. “After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to **Corinth**. And he found a certain Jew named **Aquila**, born in Pontus, who had **recently come from Italy** with his wife Priscilla (**because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome**); and he came to them. So, because he was of the **same trade**, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were **tentmakers**. And **he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks**. When Silas and Timothy had **come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ**. But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, **“Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”** And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain man named **Justus**, one who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. **Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household**. And **many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized**. Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, **“Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.”** And he **continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them**. When **Gallio was proconsul of Achaia**, the **Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat**, saying, **“This fellow persuades men to worship God contrary to the law.”** And when Paul was about to open his mouth, **Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you. But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look to it yourselves; for I do not want to be a judge of such matters.”** And he drove them from the judgment seat. Then all the **Greeks took Sosthenes, the ruler**

of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. But Gallio took no notice of these things." Acts 18:1-17 NKJV

C. Paul is ready to complete this mission...

(1) Paul Returns to Antioch (Acts 18:18-23)

(a) Paul remained in Corinth for quite some time and then headed back to Antioch in Syria.

1. "So Paul still remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and **sailed for Syria**, and **Priscilla and Aquila** were with him. **He had his hair cut off at Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow**. And he came to **Ephesus**, and **left them there**; but **he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews**. When they asked him to stay a longer time with them, he did not consent, but took leave of them, saying, **"I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem**; but I will return again to you, God willing." **And he sailed from Ephesus. And when he had landed at Caesarea**, and gone up and greeted the church, **he went down to Antioch**. After he had spent some time there, he departed **and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples**." Acts 18:18-23 NKJV
2. *"This is the law of the Nazirite who vows to the Lord the offering for his separation, and besides that, whatever else his hand is able to provide; according to the vow which he takes, so he must do according to the law of his separation."* Numbers 6:21 NKJV
3. Note: it also seems that this is the same type of Vow that Paul makes in Acts 21. *"Therefore do what we tell you: We have four men who have taken a vow. Take them and be purified with them, and pay their expenses so that they may shave their heads, and that all may know that those things of which they were informed concerning you are nothing, but that you yourself also walk orderly and keep the law."* Acts 21:23-24 NKJV
4. *"Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed."* Deuteronomy 16:16 NKJV

D. The Ministry of Apollos

(1) Introducing Apollos (Acts 18:24-28)

(a) Now we meet Apollos, a Jewish man born in Alexandria (Egypt) who came to Ephesus.

1. "Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, **came to Ephesus**. This man **had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately** the things of the Lord, though **he knew only the baptism of John**. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When **Aquila and Priscilla heard him**, they took him aside and **explained to him the way of God more accurately**. And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, **he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ**." Acts 18:24-28
2. "And it happened, **while Apollos was at Corinth**, that **Paul**, having passed through the upper regions, **came to Ephesus**. And **finding some disciples** he said to them, **"Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"** So they said to him, **"We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."** And he said to them, **"Into what then were you baptized?"** So they said, **"Into John's baptism."**" Acts 19:1-3 NKJV