

Acts Series

Lesson #132

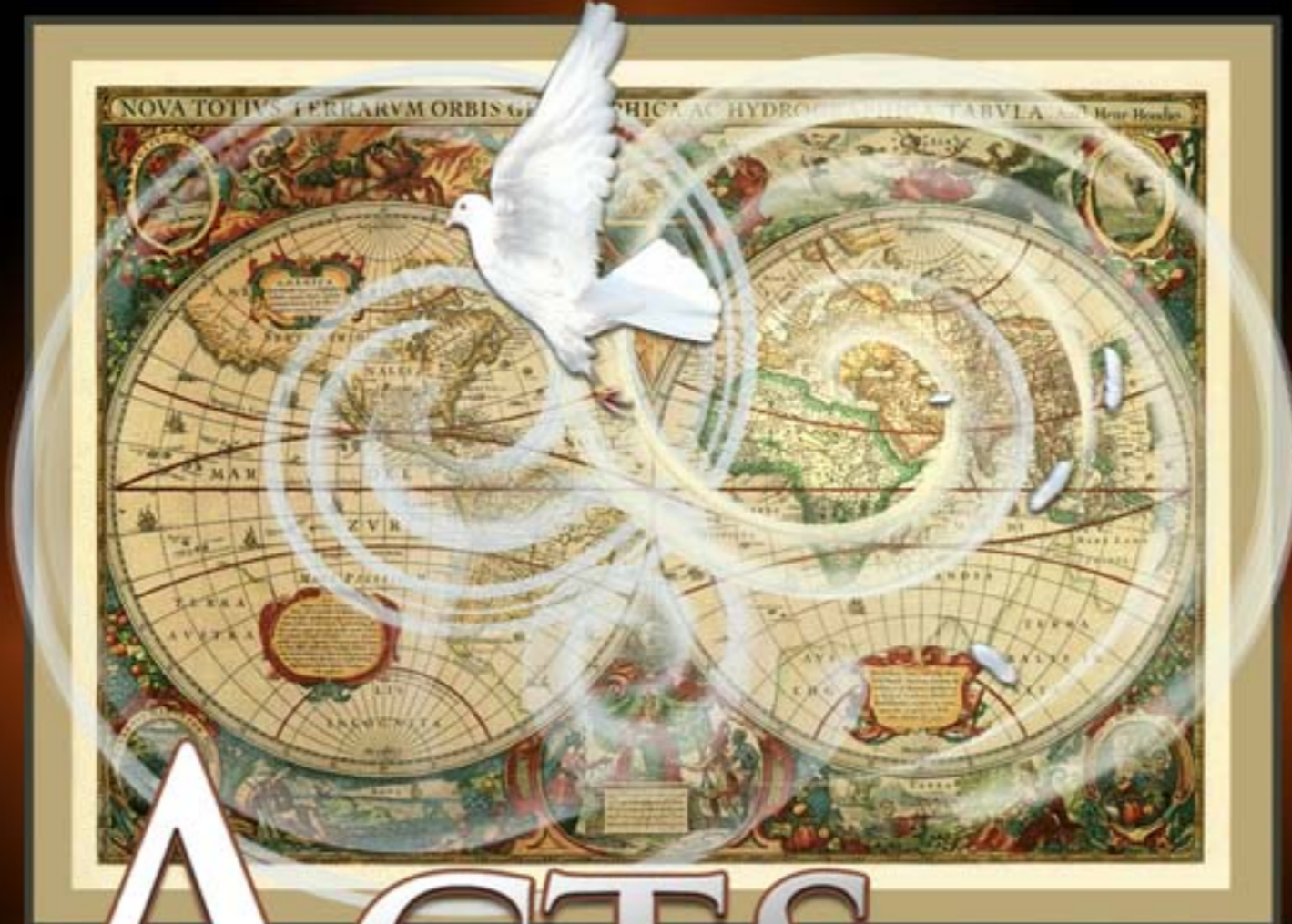
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Dean Bible Ministries

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# ACTS

OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
THE CHURCH AGE BEGINS

**TRAVEL TO JERUSALEM**  
**ACTS 21:1–14**



**Acts 21:1, “Now it came to pass, that when we had departed from them and set sail, running a straight course we came to Cos, the following day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara.**

**Acts 21:2, “And finding a ship sailing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail.”**







ASIA

CAPPADO

CILICI

CARIA

PAMPHYLLIA

LYCIA

PHOENICIA

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Pergamum

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Smyrna

Antioch in Pisidia

Lake Tuz

Halys River

Caesarea

Ephesus

Hierapolis

Laodicea

Colossae

Iconium

Lystra

Derbe

Tarsus

Cos

Attalia

Patara

Seleucia Pieria

Cyprus

Rhodes

Sidon

Tyre

Ptolemais (Acco)

Caesarea Maritima

Jordan River



**Acts 21:3, “When we had sighted Cyprus, we passed it on the left, sailed to Syria, and landed at Tyre; for there the ship was to unload her cargo.”**



**Acts 21:4, “And finding disciples, we stayed there seven days. They told Paul through the Spirit [*dia pneumatos*] not to go up to Jerusalem.”**



**Acts 19:21, “When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit [*en to pneumati*], when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, ‘After I have been there, I must also see Rome.’ ”**

**Acts 20:22, “And see, now I go bound in the Spirit [*to pneumati*] to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there,”**

**Acts 20:24, “But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”**



**Acts 1:2, “until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit [*dia pneumatos*] given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen.”**

**Acts 4:25, “who by the Holy Spirit [*dia pneumatos*], through the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, ‘WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE, AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS?’ ”**

**Acts 11:28, “One of them named Agabus stood up and began to indicate by the Spirit [*dia pneumatos*] that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the reign of Claudius.”**



**Rom. 5:5, “and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”**

**1 Cor. 2:10, “For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.”**

**1 Cor. 12:8, “For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit;”**



# Conclusion

**Option 1: Luke and/or the Holy Spirit contradicts himself.**

**Option 2: Paul has misunderstood the guidance of the Spirit and the disciples in Tyre have it right.**

**Option 3: The disciples in Tyre receive the same message Paul has been getting about persecution if he goes to Jerusalem, and their reaction is to tell Paul to not go to Jerusalem.**

**Option 4: The disciples in Tyre are just wrong.**



## ***New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology***

***dia tou pneumatos* in Acts 21:4 is difficult, since the advice not to go on to Jerusalem given to Paul by the Tyrian disciples (= prophets? cf. Acts 11:28) “through the Spirit” conflicted with his own resolve “in the Spirit” (*en tō pneumati*, Acts 19:21) and with the constraint and testimony of the Spirit (Acts 20:22f). It is noteworthy that Agabus’s subsequent prophecy at Caesarea (Acts 21:11) that predicts Paul’s suffering in Jerusalem and begins ...**



## ***New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology***

**“Thus says the Holy Spirit” does not include an injunction or exhortation to Paul not to go to Jerusalem (but cf. Acts 21:12–14). Perhaps therefore the crucial prepositional phrase in Acts 21:4 should be rendered “while under the inspiration of the Spirit” (but C. F. D. Moule, *Idiom-Book*, 57 tentatively suggests “as a spiritual insight”).**



## ***New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology***

**In his condensed statement Luke has not distinguished between a prophecy regarding Paul's suffering at Jerusalem (doubtless given by the Tyrian disciples before their exhortation) that was delivered at the direction of the Spirit (cf. Acts 21:11) and their own personal exhortation (cf. Acts 21:12) that was occasioned by the prediction and immediately followed it. The verse may be paraphrased thus: "Prompted by a prediction of the Spirit they told Paul not to go on to Jerusalem."**



**Acts 21:5, “When we had come to the end of those days, we departed and went on our way; and they all accompanied us, with wives and children, till we were out of the city. And we knelt down on the shore and prayed.**

**Acts 21:6, “When we had taken our leave of one another, we boarded the ship, and they returned home.”**



**Acts 21:7, “And when we had finished our voyage from Tyre, we came to Ptolemais, greeted the brethren, and stayed with them one day.**

**Acts 21:8, “On the next day we who were Paul’s companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.**

**Acts 21:9, “Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied.”**



**1 Chron. 25:1, “Moreover David and the captains of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals. And the number of the skilled men performing their service was:**

**1 Chron. 25:2, “Of the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah, and Asharelah; the sons of Asaph were under the direction of Asaph, who prophesied according to the order of the king.**

**1 Chron. 25:3, “Of Jeduthun, the sons of Jeduthun: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the direction of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied with a harp to give thanks and to praise the LORD.”**



**1 Sam. 10:5, “After that you shall come to the hill of God where the Philistine garrison is. And it will happen, when you have come there to the city, that you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with a stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute, and a harp before them; and they will be prophesying.**

**1 Sam. 10:6, “Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.”**



**Ex. 15:20, “Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.”**

**Judges 4:4, “Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time.”**



**Acts 21:10, “And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.”**



**Acts 21:10, “And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.”**

**Acts 11:28, “Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.”**



**Acts 21:10, “And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.**

**Acts 21:11, “When he had come to us, he took Paul’s belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, ‘Thus says the Holy Spirit, “So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.” ’ ”**



**Acts 21:11, “When he had come to us, he took Paul’s belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, ‘Thus says the Holy Spirit, “So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.” ’ ”**



**Acts 21:12, “Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem.**

**Acts 21:13, “Then Paul answered, ‘What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.’**

**Acts 21:14, “So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, ‘The will of the Lord be done.’ ”**



- 1. God's will allows and permits us to go through undeserved suffering.**
- 2. The purpose is to learn to trust Him.**