

420-422 of these notes}. We will study a little more about Aquila and Priscilla at the end of this chapter. {Starting on page 468 of these notes}.

Meanwhile Luke gives us a little more information concerning the movement of the Apostle Paul. ACTS 18:21(b) *...And he sailed from Ephesus. 22 And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up, and saluted the church, he went down to Antioch.* Caesarea is located about 70 miles from Jerusalem, and for all practical purposes was the sea port of Jerusalem. It appears from verse 22 that the Apostle Paul didn't arrive in Jerusalem in time for the feast, for no further mention is made of the feast. Brother Copley sheds some light as to why the Apostle Paul intended to be at these Jewish feasts in Jerusalem if possible, stating: "Paul sought every opportunity to bring the glad tidings to his own people, the Jews. Those Jerusalem gatherings afforded him a rare chance to reach many Jews at one time." (End of quote from Brother Copley). History records that these Jewish feast attracted as many as 75,000 additional Jews to Jerusalem in Paul's day; Jews who came from all over the world. Keep this fact in the back of your mind when we get to ACTS 21 & 22.

This was the fourth time Paul has returned to Jerusalem since being saved on the road to Damascus. {See content page for more information on his first three visits.} Briefly in review, recall that the Apostle Paul, though from Tarsus, Cilicia, basically grew up in Jerusalem. ACTS 22:3 tells us that Paul was educated "at the feet of Gamaliel" while a youth in Jerusalem. Jerusalem was Paul's head quarters in ACTS 8:1-3, and 9:1 & 2. Then Paul got saved on the road to Damascus, and didn't return to Jerusalem until ACTS 9:26, some three years later, and then only briefly, (fifteen days according to GALATIANS 1:18). Basically he then was run out of town, and didn't return to Jerusalem again until several years later with Barnabas in ACTS 11:30. Meanwhile after Barnabas had introduced Paul to those of Antioch, Syria, Antioch became his home church. {Study ACTS 11:26 and 12:25 - 13:4}. The church of Antioch, Syria sponsored Paul's missionary journeys, and when Paul and Barnabas finished their missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas went from Antioch to Jerusalem and accomplished the events discussed in ACTS 15, and GALATIANS 2:1-10. This was Paul's third visit to Jerusalem since being saved. Here in ACTS 18:22 Paul was returning from his second missionary journey, sponsored by the church in Antioch, and as we just read in ACTS 18:22 *...when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up, and saluted the church, (in Jerusalem) he went down to Antioch.* This would then be the fourth time Paul had visited Jerusalem since being saved some seventeen or eighteen years earlier. Such a brief and uneventful visit was this that Luke barely makes mention of it, only stating that Paul "*saluted the church.*" Then just as briefly Luke mentions that Paul once again visited his Christian home church of Antioch, Syria. If you think about it, this was Paul's fifth extended visit back to Antioch, Syria since being saved, and according to scripture this was his last visit to Antioch, Syria. ACTS 18:23 tells us in very few words that Paul "spent some time there" before he departed Antioch, Syria for the last time.

Paul's Third Missionary Journey Begins

ACTS 18:23 *And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.*

With this scripture Paul's third missionary journey begins. Luke, the author of ACTS, again gives us little other information here. Was Paul traveling with someone here? We are not told. What happened to Silas his traveling companion from his second missionary journey? Again we are not told. Where were Luke, and Timothy? Again we are not told this information, but we will catch up with them later in the book of ACTS. What Luke has focused upon since starting ACTS chapter 13 has been the life of the Apostle Paul.

Let's pause here for a moment and consider where we are at this point in time in the life of the Apostle Paul. Scofield, and Conybeare and Howson, all agree that the events of ACTS 18:23 occur in 54 A.D. Most likely it has been around eighteen years since Paul met the Lord on the way to Damascus. At his first mention in scripture (ACTS 7:58) Paul was a young man, probably no older than early twenties. Now here in ACTS 18:23

he is approximately forty years old. History and scripture indicates that Paul will live about fourteen more years! In a few short years he will write in PHILEMON 1:9 -- *Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.* Paul was approximately fifty years old when he wrote this statement, yet in his day he was "Paul the aged" for the life span of people in his day was not much longer than that! As Paul starts this third missionary journey he has written two epistles so far, 1 & 2 THESSALONIANS. Also recall here a statement that Ananias of Damascus was told of the Lord in ACTS 9:15 & 16 concerning Paul, how that Paul was to *...bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: 16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.* We have found that the Apostle Paul up to this point in time in his life has witnessed to many Gentiles about the salvation of Jesus, and that he has told many of the children of Israel the very same thing. Further he has suffered many things so far along his pathway of the bearing the name of Jesus. However we haven't found him preaching to any bona fide kings yet, so we know that the Lord isn't through with him yet either. In short there were a lot of things yet to be accomplished in the life of the Apostle Paul these next fourteen years of his life, and in this third missionary journey of his the Lord would advance the doctrines of Paul to a new, and higher level. Thus he would later be able to write such statements as these: ROMANS 11:33 *C the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!* EPHESIANS 3:8 *Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;...* . Note also the words of this prayer of Paul's found in EPHESIANS 3. EPHESIANS 3:14 *For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. 20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.* These words were written unto the church at Ephesus, with whom Paul will spend three years on this third missionary journey, {see ACTS 20:31}. It is hard to find a more advanced statement in scripture than the one we just read in EPHESIANS 3:20 *...exceeding abundantly above all...*, and Paul was talking about the working of the Lord in the hearts of all of us who believe on Jesus, as he was praying for our higher education in the Lord. This higher education in the Lord was being perfected in Paul's life during these last fourteen years of his life.

Let's now examine ACTS 18:23 a little closer. ACTS 18:23 *And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.*

We first find Paul spending "some time there," that is in Antioch, Syria. As we mentioned above, this will be the last time Paul will preach at his Christian home church of Antioch, Syria where they were first called Christians in scripture, this according to ACTS 11:26 *....And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.* We know from the last part of ACTS 18:23 that Paul here was also *...strengthening all the disciples.* Having now heard of Paul's adventures on his second missionary trip, these very same Antioch disciples sent him on his third missionary journey encouraging him to continue to *...strengthening all the disciples.* So Paul did just that, *...and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.*

Note that this third missionary journey had a little different pattern to it than did his first two missionary journeys, for here Paul visited places he had been to before, *...and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.* Paul had established churches previously on his earlier missionary journeys, but Luke recorded very little of this until now. What Luke did write concerning this is found in ACTS 16:6, which reads in part: *Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia*

and the region of Galatia,... . Note that Galatia was a region, and not a specific town or city. Sister Bodie and Brother Copley note that Galatia means "milky" showing their character of childishness, being able to take only the milk, and not the meat of the Word, which is expressive of folk under the law. Paul would address this very subject to them later in a letter addressed *...unto the churches of Galatia:* (GALATIANS 1:2). Note here that there were several *churches of Galatia* addressed in this one epistle. It was these very same churches that Paul was now visiting once again on his third missionary journey for the purpose of *...strengthening all the disciples*. How many churches Paul established and visited while passing *...throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia...* we are not told in scripture. We do know from ACTS 18:21 that Paul intended to return to Ephesus, so he progressed in order from east to west, *...strengthening all the disciples...* as he went.

Luke next here in ACTS 18:24-28 brakes away from covering the journeys of the Apostle Paul, and tells a little of what was taking place at Ephesus after Paul had left Aquila and Priscilla there in ACTS 18:18. Essentially in ACTS 18:24-28 we find fruit from Paul's having been with Aquila and Priscilla for a year and a half there at Corinth.

Paul's Gospel Taught to Apollos by Aquila and Priscilla

ACTS 18:24 *And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. 26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. 27 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: 28 For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.*

There is a tremendous amount of information conveyed in these five verses, which really magnifies the working of the Holy Ghost in the hearts of Spirit filled believers. In these verses we get a glimpse as to the ministry of Aquila and Priscilla. Additionally we find that they had learned Paul's gospel very well, thus they were able to expound unto Apollos *...the way of God more perfectly*. The only way that the gospel can be expounded more perfectly is through Paul's gospel with the enlightening help of the Holy Ghost. In the above five verses we are also introduced unto Apollos, whose name we find mentioned a total of ten times in scripture. Ten is the number whose meaning is: RESPONSIBILITY ACCORDING TO ABILITY. We found when we did our study on the church apostles that Apollos became one of the church apostles. (To see this for yourself study 1 CORINTHIANS chapter 3 and 4, and note in 1 CORINTHIANS 4:9 the statement "us the apostles," which is a reference to both Paul and Apollos). It was the Holy Ghost who ordained Apollos to be a church apostle. It was Aquila and Priscilla who introduced Apollos to the Holy Ghost, and Paul's gospel. It became Apollos' RESPONSIBILITY ACCORDING TO ABILITY after meeting Aquila and Priscilla, to become a church apostle, and to spread Paul's gospel message, which he did rather eloquently. These facts will become more evident as we now study further the above portion of scripture from ACTS 18:24-28.

The church Apostles were familiar with and taught Paul's gospel, most of them having learned Paul's gospel first hand from Paul himself. Not so with Apollos. So let's see how it was that he became a church Apostle. In ACTS 18:11 we find that Paul was at Corinth a year and a half. Paul then departed for Jerusalem and takes with him Aquila and Priscilla, ACTS 18:18. In ACTS 18:19 we find Aquila and Priscilla taking up residence in Ephesus, and stay there for quite some time as I CORINTHIANS 16:19 helps point out. In ACTS 18:21 & 22 Paul ends his second missionary journey, and in ACTS 18:23 Paul starts his third missionary journey. While Paul is away from Ephesus the events of ACTS 18:24-28 take place in which several very important things take place. Let's closely examine what takes place in these verses.

ACTS 18:24 from an expounded reading: *And a certain Jew named Apollos, a native*