Bible Study 8 Wednesday, August 24th Chapter Twenty

 Acts of the Apostles

After the riots in Ephesus Paul left the city and traveled to Macedonia. We read the story of Eutychus at Troas. He had been sitting high on a windowsill, fell asleep and fell to his dead. Paul brings him back to life.

Paul makes it his intention to reach Jerusalem. 20:22f. he sends for the elders of the church in Ephesus as he sails that way and gives them one parting farewell address. Paul tells them to live and rely on the Holy Spirit. There will be persecutions and wolves that will seek to destroy the church of Christ. He bids them all goodbye telling them that they will never see him again. It is a sad parting.

Now Paul and his companions travel on by ship till they get to Tyre on the coast of Syria. They then seemed to sail down the Palestine Coast till they reached the port of Caesarea. Here the disciples gather and one predicts that Paul will be arrested by the Jews in Jerusalem.

Paul meets with James and some of the Apostles in Jerusalem and he seems to give a detailed report of his ministry to the Gentiles in Asia Minor and Greece.

Paul is arrested by the Jews in the Temple. He would have been killed if not saved by the Roman Commander and his men. He is allowed to make his defense before the angry crowd in Aramaic. He tells them how he was trained in the law by Gamaliel and commissioned to seek out the followers of the ‘WAY’ and imprison them.

Paul tells the story of his conversion on the Road to Damascus. It is a much more detailed account that the one in the earlier part of Acts. His speech is going well till he mentions the Gentiles in 22:22f.

Paul is taken into the Roman barracks to be flogged but claims he is a Citizen of Rome. Paul is released but next day must face the Sanhedrin and the elders. Paul sets Pharisee against Sadducees over their teaching of the afterlife. Still he is held by the Romans.

There is yet another plot by 40 Jews against Paul. It is uncovered by Paul’s sister’s son. Paul is taken under heavy guard back to Caesarea and to the house of the Governor Felix.

There now from Chapter 24 begins a whole series of trials which Paul has to endure. They follow a pattern of Accusers, plots, accusations and Paul mounting a spirited defense.