

Bible e-Study on the book of Acts (15)

Where Do You Go?

“They chose Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, two men who were leaders among the brothers ... but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.” [Acts 15:22b & 40-41](#)

NUGGET – How courageous is Silas? Here is our first look at someone who had been a part of the now well-established Jerusalem church who leaves there. As we read in [Acts 15:22-41](#) he is at first assigned to go to the Gentiles to testify to the results of the Jerusalem council. He takes on this assignment and goes and finds himself among fellow believers who are *not* Jewish and this is a game-changer for him.

He stays and we're told in verse 32 that he and Judas 'said much to encourage and strengthen the brothers.' Following this he returns to Jerusalem. But he doesn't stay there. Why? What could take him out of the comfort of 'home' and send him to the hinterlands?

Yes, we're told that Paul chose him to go with him sometime later when Paul wants to revisit the churches of the Gentiles. But that alone would not be a reason to go. It would seem that he found, in that work, something that the Holy Spirit was doing that he wanted to part of.

Silas presents us with a challenge. As we will see later in Acts, and in the writings of Paul, Silas becomes a partner preacher with Paul. And further he remains a trusted friend of Peter ([1Peter 5:12](#)). Silas is a challenge to us because he moves as the Holy Spirit moves him along; not resisting or holding back. In fact it seems he found in the work among the Gentiles, something worth doing - worth giving up the comforts of home and familiarity.

Going along with Paul, he was taken to places he could not have dreamed of before. And all of this comes as a result of the council of Jerusalem that first sent him off. In that 'going' Silas found something new for himself revealed to him by the Holy Spirit. We're not told much about Silas, other than that he preached along with Paul.

Silas preached the gospel, helped to strengthen churches, plant churches, form leaders and who knows what else. It was a wild journey he embarked on as he left Jerusalem and joined Paul on the road. But it was a journey that allowed him to be used by God to help form us into the church we are today. Someday, perhaps, we may get to learn more of what he did to help us. But for now it's enough to know that he was faithful to the call God gave him through the church and through Paul. That faithfulness and willingness give us both challenge and encouragement.

APPLICATION -

1. Not much about you or I may likely be remembered 2000 or more years from now. But we, like Silas, have been moved by God's Holy Spirit to be here in *this* place at *this* time. What might God be moving you to do that takes you beyond your comfort zone? Look for the opening that Silas was given by God that may be calling you in a new way to serve or to go or to???

PRAY – Knowing that God hears our prayers and that He answers them in His way at His time for His purposes, seek God earnestly to open your eyes to what may be new or takes you into a fresh way of serving Him.

Historical Chronology of Acts		
Event	Record	Year (AD)
Ascension of Jesus	Acts 1	30 (33?)
Promise of the Spirit fulfilled	Acts 2:1-13	
Jerusalem Church Est.	Acts 2:40-47	
Persecution of the Way begins	Acts 4:1-22; 5:21-42; 7:1-60	31
Philip takes Gospel to Samaria	Acts 8:4-13	
Saul (Paul) converts to The Way	Acts 9:1-9	34
Paul meets Apostles in Jerusalem	Acts 9:26-30	37
Gentiles convert to The Way	Acts 10:1-48	40
Church at Antioch Est.	Acts 11:19-30	43
James killed by Herod Agrippa I & Peter is arrested	Acts 12:1-5	44
Peter escapes from prison	Acts 12:6-19	
Herod Agrippa I dies	Acts 12:20-25	

Historical Chronology of Acts		
Event	Record	Year (AD)
Barnabas and Paul Chosen	Acts 13:1-3	48
1st Mission through Galatia	Acts 13:4-4:26	48-49
Report back to Church in Antioch	Acts 14:27-28	49
Council at Jerusalem	Acts 15:6-35	
Paul writes Galatians		
Claudius expels Jews from Rome		
Paul's 2nd Mission		49-51
Paul writes 1 & 2 Thessalonians		
Paul's 3rd Mission	Acts 18:23-21-17	52-57
Paul writes 1 & 2 Corinthians and Romans		
Claudius dies and Jews can return home to Rome		54

Historical Chronology of Acts		
Event	Record	Year (AD)
Paul arrested in Jerusalem	Acts 21:26-22:29	57
Paul in prison at Caesarea	Acts 23:23-26-32	57-59
Paul travels to Rome	Acts 27:1-28:10	60
Paul reaches Rome and ministers under house arrest	Acts 28:11-31	62-64
Writes prison letters; Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon		
Luke writes Acts		64
Paul & Peter killed for their Faith in Rome		66