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Daily Bible Notes/Highlights Genesis through Revelation 2014

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--You'll find the formatting change as the commentary moves beyond 1/2014--

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Acts

C21 Vss 1-Paul heads for Jerusalem. They began their travel back and as they went woman and children greeted them (4-6).

Luke mentions Philip's four evangelist daughters. Agabus gives prophecy to Paul in what lies ahead. He'll be imprisoned. Paul's words resonate to this day. I'm not ready only to be in prison but to die for Jesus. Jews have lied about Paul and his message (7-22).

They enacted a plan to show that Paul honored Moses. But it did not matter when someone wishes us ill-will. As with Jesus their minds are made up. This was the case with Paul at Jerusalem (27-33).

The crowd was determined to kill him. He spoke to the crowd with his Roman citizen rights (34-40). We can use our citizenship to speak the Gospel. We only want one thing. This is to be allowed to share the Gospel.

C22-24

C22 vss1- Luke records Paul's defense as he relates by speaking in Hebrew. He gives his religious training by telling them that he studied under the most respected theologian of the day, Gamaliel. He tells the story of how he encountered Jesus.

Here we learn some of the dangers of a Biblical narrative where detail is not necessary. Paul's story is not the same as what's recorded. This does not mean that either account has error. It means to combine them both to get the complete picture of what happened.

Paul, particularly shares the struggle of understanding how he could be accepted when it was well known that he was the arch-persecutor, and co-signed on Stephen's death. The Lord let him know his ministry would be to the Gentiles.

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This is an excellent example of restoration. It does not mean that Paul will be able to have a direct ministry to Jewish Christians. He was absolutely correct to raise the issue about ministry to the people he persecuted. The mental hurdles and fear would be too great. However, he would have impact on all believers (1-22).

Paul was about to be beaten without due process when he informs the commander he is a Roman citizen by birth. God prepares us completely for what lies ahead. It was already ordained that Paul would be the minister to the world for Jesus from his birth (24-29).

C23 Vss 1- Paul before the high council comprised of Saducees and Pharisees knew what to do to cause a diversion. He gave his pedigree as a Pharisee, and that he was on trial for believing resurrection. One thing about religious people, they cannot find any common-ground that will allow them to uphold their position while respectfully listening to others. There is no such thing as respectfully disagreeing. As believers, we don't have a force-feed message.

Paul is informed he will not die in Jerusalem, but he will go further to Rome itself. Paul is informed about a plot to kill him. The commander arranges to protect Paul. It's the classic case of the religious vs. the heathen. The governor orders him protected within the religious leaders jail.

C24 Vss 1- The religious leader came to present his case to the governor. But the basis was religious and false (1-9). Paul admits his involvement with the Way, but shows he also honors Jewish law. He is held for a few days under guard and returns. He continues telling Felix the governor all about Jesus upon his return. Felix became frightened. Paul was so convincing. He also hoped for Paul to bribe him so he'd send for Paul often/ Paul was there two years (10-27).

However, no time is wasted. Paul no doubt is writing extensively to the churches he visited on his missionary campaigns.

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