

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

BACK TO THE BOOK OF ACTS (BBA)

RLJ-1146

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PART 35: SALVATION AND PERSECUTION

PHILIPPI

“Modern Fílippoi hill town in the nomós (department) of Kavála, Greece, overlooking the coastal plain and the bay at Neapolis (Kavála). Philip II of Macedon fortified this old Thasian settlement in 356 B.C. to control neighbouring gold mines.

In 42 BC Philippi was the site of the decisive Roman battle in which Mark Antony and Octavian (later the emperor Augustus) defeated Brutus and Cassius, the leading assassins of Julius Caesar. Brutus and Cassius, whose forces roughly equaled those of their opponents, lay astride the Via Egnatia to the west of Philippi, their position being partly protected by a marsh. Antony made a successful attack on the camp of Cassius, who, not knowing that Brutus’ forces had successfully assailed Octavian’s camp, committed suicide. About three weeks later, on October 23, Brutus, against his better judgment, fought a second action in which he was routed; despairing of restoring the republican cause, he too took his own life. After the battle a colony for Roman veterans was started at Philippi, and this was later reinforced by Augustus.” (Encyclopedia Britannica)

Thus, Philippi was a Roman city and the people born there were Roman citizens. This is useful to know because Roman law would be used by Paul after he was wrongfully imprisoned.

PAUL AND SILAS DID NOT START AT THE SYNAGOGUE

Once Paul and Silas arrived in Philippi, they found out that there were Jewish women who met in a place along the river for prayer meetings on the Sabbath. This is where they went and started to preach Christ. **Acts 16:12-13**

Lydia was a businesswoman among them from the city of Thyatira. We don't know anything about her husband, only that she operated a business and owned a house. Lydia and her entire household received Jesus as the Messiah; they were born again and baptized in water. **verses 14-15**

Thus, the first convert in the city of Philippi was a woman and a foreigner from Asia. This is why Paul later wrote: *“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”* **Galatians 3:26-29**



PAUL AND SILAS THROWN INTO PRISON

It is interesting to note that Paul and Silas stayed away from the Jewish synagogue and kept attending the women's prayer meetings. In every previous city, Satan had used the Jews in the synagogues to stir up trouble and drive Paul out of town. Since Paul was not working in the synagogue, the Devil used a young woman in witchcraft to ruin his work in Philippi. Paul did not want the Devil to advertise the preaching of the Gospel, so he cast out the demon. **Acts 16:16-18**

When you touch the economy of the ungodly, you'll have a riot on your hands. **verses 19-24**

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THE DEVIL HAS TIED YOU UP?

There is only one thing to do when you are stuck with no way out, start praising God and worshiping Him. **verse 25**

You must have a close relationship with the Lord in order to do this. This relationship is not something you develop when you are in trouble but something that is created before you get into trouble!

1. Come to Jesus. **Matthew 11:28-30**
2. Make him Lord in your life. **Philippians 2:5-18**
3. Love Him by obeying Him. **John 14:15**
4. Have faith in God. **Romans 8:28-31**

WHEN GOD RESPONDS, NOTHING CAN STOP HIM!

God decided to bust up the jail. **Acts 16:26**

The prison chief knew that Roman law demanded the death penalty if guards allowed prisoners to escape. Out of fear, he tried to kill himself. **verse 27**

Paul was now in charge and the gift of repentance was given to the jailer and his family. **verses 28-33**

Paul and Silas were treated very poorly initially but ended up receiving royal treatment at the jailor's house. **verses 34**

STANDING UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT

Paul wasn't a dummy and used his Roman citizenship to show the city leaders that they had offended the apostles. He demanded and received an apology from the judge and the city leaders. **verses 35-40**

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS?

1. All people on the earth are born at a particular time for a specific purpose. **Psalms 139:1-18**
2. Some people are created to bring great glory to God while others are destined to be vessels of destruction. **Romans 9:9-23**

3. After the flood, Noah, his three sons and their wives all knew God and His requirements, *but they failed to teach their children and grandchildren about God!* As a result, the Devil took over these generations by default, and for more than 6,000 years, the people living on this earth are paying for the sins of Noah and his family! **Deuteronomy 6:5-12**
4. Rejoice that you have heard the Gospel and been born again. You are among a small remnant on this earth who heard the Gospel and were able to accept by the gift of repentance and grace bestowed upon you by the Holy Spirit. **John 6:44; 65**
5. Be sure to pass it on; you don't want to be like Noah and his family! **Luke 10:1-2**

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?