



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

The Team Who Turned the World Upside Down

MAY 23-25, 2018

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Acts 17:5-9 *“But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. 6) But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, ‘These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. 7) Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus.’ 8) And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things. 9) So when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.” (NKJV)*

“WHEN THEY HAD DRAGGED JASON AND HIS FRIENDS BEFORE THE MAGISTRATES THEY CHARGED THE CHRISTIAN PREACHERS WITH PREACHING POLITICAL INSURRECTION AND REBELLION—A CHARGE WHICH THEY KNEW WAS A LIE. AND YET THE CHARGE IS AN INTENSELY SUGGESTIVE ONE. ‘THOSE,’ THEY SAID, ‘WHO ARE UPSETTING THE CIVILIZED WORLD HAVE ARRIVED HERE.’ THAT IS ONE OF THE GREATEST COMPLIMENTS WHICH HAS EVER BEEN PAID TO CHRISTIANITY. THE JEWS HAD NOT THE SLIGHTEST DOUBT THAT CHRISTIANITY WAS A SUPREMELY EFFECTIVE THING.”
WILLIAM BARCLAY

Why do the Jews have to resort to the unethical use of mobsters in the marketplace? Were they in the minority in their own city because of the immense success of Paul’s preaching in the synagogue, so that a majority of the city had come to Christ? Are the same tactics used in Iconium when they were outnumbered there? Why the surprise attack by mob violence on the house of Jason? Did the Jews realize that their

accusations were actually a compliment to the effectiveness of this spiritual seal team? Do the rulers know about what had happened in Philippi and therefore Paul’s citizenship? What was this “security” taken from “Jason and the rest” before they were released?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- MAY 30-JUNE 1: ACTS 17:10-15 **LEADERS SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES IN THEIR CAPITAL**
- JUNE 6-8: ACTS 17:16-21 **PAUL AND THE GREATEST PHILOSOPHERS**

Though God had granted great success at Philippi and a church had been planted for the first time in Europe with Lydia as the host and Luke as their pastor, the backs of Paul and Silas were still tender and hurting from their beating by the generals. The supernatural earthquake had provided an instant answer to their prayers for the leader of the prison and he and his family had been baptized the very night of their imprisonment. With great pain they had protected the fledgling church with their citizenship and had acquired a public apology from the generals to make sure that no further persecution arose against the church, but that didn’t instantly heal their backs. Most likely the mission team was provided horses for their journey to Thessalonica to avoid packs upon their bloody backs for the hundred mile journey, probably in three days travel. With the fervent prayers and continual gifts from the Philippian church, this incredible mission team accomplished its greatest work in the next three weeks. A work in which half the capital may have turned to Christ!

“FOR I KNOW THAT THIS WILL TURN OUT FOR MY DELIVERANCE THROUGH YOUR PRAYER AND THE SUPPLY OF THE SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST ... FOR EVEN IN THESSALONICA YOU SENT AID ONCE AND AGAIN FOR MY NECESSITIES.” PHILIPPIANS 1:19, 4:16

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 7:30AM –BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – BOB EVANS ON RT. 3 & 12:00 – WOODBRIDGE – BOB EVANS, 14490 SMOKETOWN RD.
THURSDAY @ 7:00AM –BIBLE STUDY – CHESTER – SHONEY’S AT RT. 10 (IRON BRIDGE ROAD) & 301(12531 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY)
FRIDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – NORFOLK – GOLDEN CORRAL, 6103 N. MILITARY HWY, NEAR THE NORFOLK AIRPORT

Virginia

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I. AN UNGODLY RESPONSE

ACTS 17:5

Paul had carefully built his case over the three Sabbaths, “*explaining and demonstrating that Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead*” and continually preaching that Jesus is “*the Christ*.” All the Jews had assumed that their Messiah would be a conquering king who would deliver them from bondage to Rome and rule the world. What they did not want to accept were the truths from Psalm 2, 22 and Isaiah 53 that their Messiah would be killed as a sacrifice for them to deliver them from the bondage of sin and Satan. This was the great truth over which most Jews stumble, but “*some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women*.” Such dramatic results of a “*great multitude*” (17:4) turning to Christ, matching the work in Iconium (Acts 14:1, 4-5), also brought persecution matching that of the unbelieving Jews in Iconium. Being driven by jealousy over such great success by Paul, they gathered the gangsters from the marketplace. Forming a mob of wicked men, to shout against Paul and Silas, and thereby gathering an even greater mob from the curious who followed, this combination of rabbis and rabble set the city in an uproar. This unruly mob attacked the house of Jason and searched it without a warrant. Their singular goal was to expose Paul and Silas to gang violence. These wicked Jews had carefully planned to lay a trap for their lives through lynching. This was the most effective way they could devise to kill them without being accountable. Only one big problem—they couldn’t find them!

“IT WAS NOT THE LAST TIME THAT RELIGIOUS PEOPLE USED THE VERY PEOPLE THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO BE TRANSFORMING INTO GOOD PEOPLE TO DO THEIR DIRTY WORK.” AJITH FERNANDO

II. AN UNEXPECTED COMPLIMENT

ACTS 17:6

This is probably the same Jason later found on Paul’s mission team in Romans 16:21, who was a relative of

Paul and had provided him lodging. Foiled in their murderous attempt because they could not find Paul and Silas, with mob violence, they literally “*dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city*.” Suddenly these Jews had to lead without a carefully laid plan. As the mobsters drag Jason and the other believers they had found in Jason’s house toward the place of the city magistrates, the Jews must fabricate what will seem like valid charges. As Jason and his Christian companions are thrust before the rulers the Jews led the shouting, “*These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. Jason has harbored them ...*” The seven men who led the city may have smiled inwardly at this accusation. Probably many of their wives were among the “*leading women*” who had received Christ and were already witnessing to their husbands.

“PAUL AND SILAS WERE GONE, GIVING THE LYNCH MOB AN OPPORTUNITY TO PAY THEM AN UNWITTING BUT IMMORTAL COMPLIMENT.” KENT HUGHES

III. AN UNINTENTIONAL WITNESS

ACTS 17:7-9

The Jews continued with a more substantial charge, “*and these all are acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus*.” It may have become obvious to these elected leaders that these Jews were the ones actually leading the uproar which they were accusing Paul and Silas of doing throughout the Roman Empire and they would have known without doubt that these Jews cared nothing for Caesar who had recently expelled the Jews from Rome. But this may have caused them to ponder more deeply this King their wives now cherished as the Lord of their lives—Jesus. J. A. Alexander speaks of “an ancient arch still standing at Thessalonica, inscribed with the names of seven Politarchs, three of which, by curious coincidence, are the names of ... Paul’s traveling companions, Sopater, Gaius, and Secundus.”

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Are you praying for and supporting those who present the Gospel to those around you and even above you?
- 2) As leaders are you discerning of those who use others as a ploy to accomplish their wicked plans?
- 3) Are you careful to use every opportunity to share the Gospel with your family, friends and leaders?