

Welcome to the Worship Celebration of



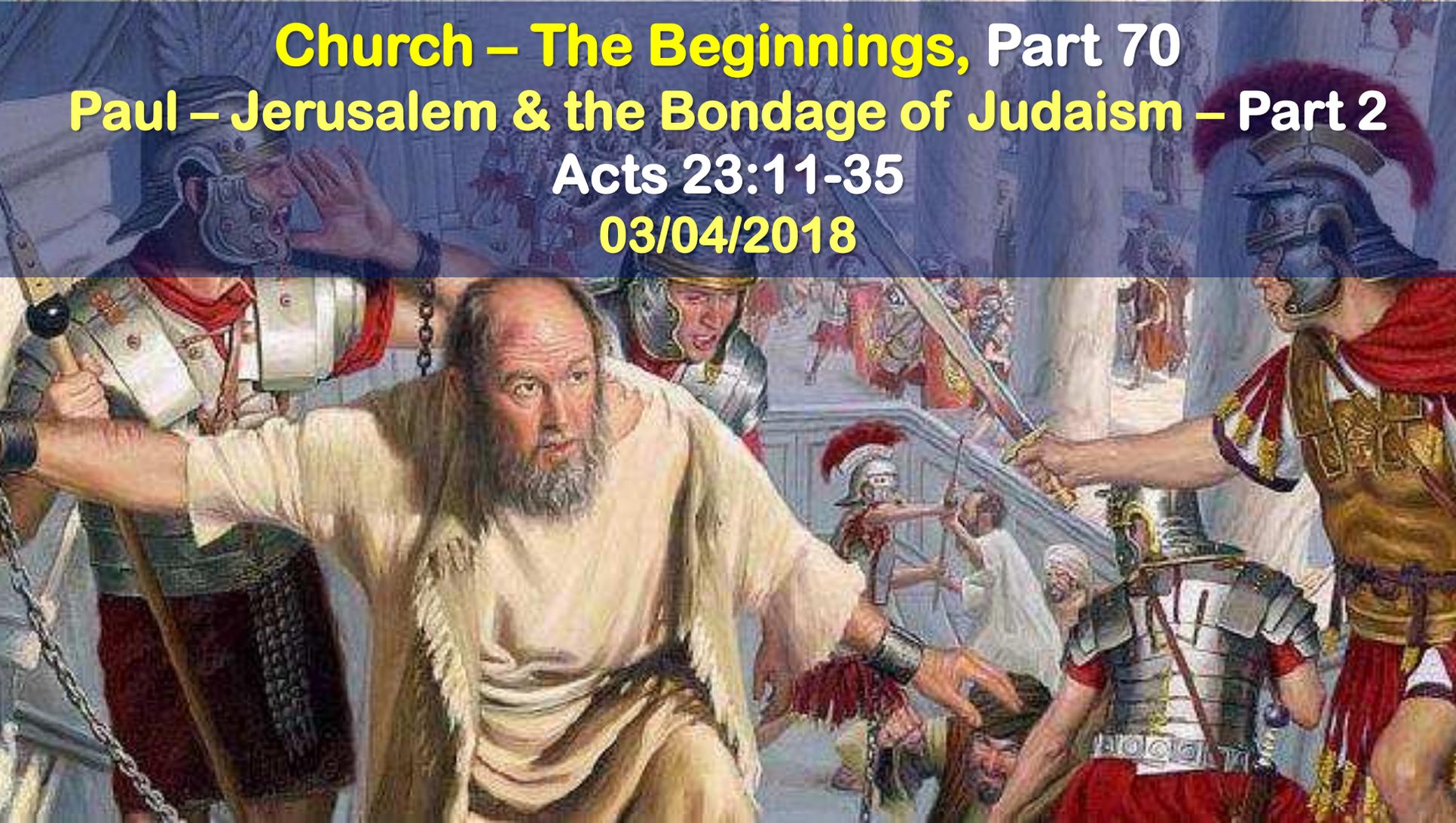
SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED

Church – The Beginnings, Part 70

Paul – Jerusalem & the Bondage of Judaism – Part 2

Acts 23:11-35

03/04/2018



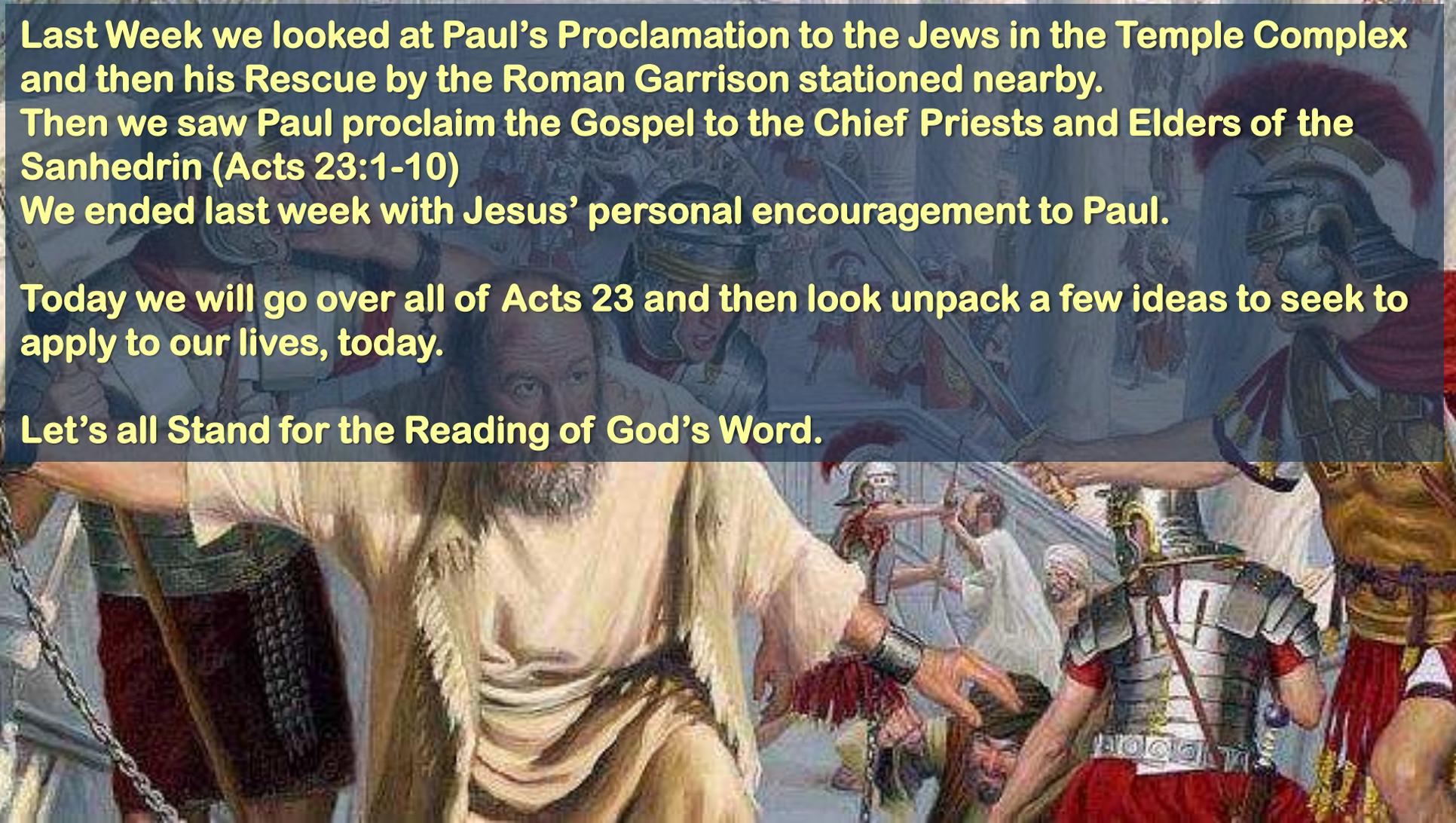
Last Week we looked at Paul's Proclamation to the Jews in the Temple Complex and then his Rescue by the Roman Garrison stationed nearby.

Then we saw Paul proclaim the Gospel to the Chief Priests and Elders of the Sanhedrin (Acts 23:1-10)

We ended last week with Jesus' personal encouragement to Paul.

Today we will go over all of Acts 23 and then look unpack a few ideas to seek to apply to our lives, today.

Let's all Stand for the Reading of God's Word.



Acts

Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

² And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth.

Chapter 23

³ Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! For you sit to judge me according to the law, and do you command me to be struck contrary to the law?"

⁴ And those who stood by said, "Do you revile God's high priest?"

Acts 23:11 –31 → Paul – Jerusalem & the Bondage of Judaism – Part 2

The Root of the Persecution against Paul is the CLASH of Two Covenants.

1. The Old Mosaic Covenant – clung on to by the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Herodians (liberal modernists).

**The same types of divisions of “Judaism” still exist today:
Orthodox, Conservative, and Progressive (liberals).**

**2. The New Covenant – in the Messiah of Israel, Jesus of Nazareth (Yeshua).
Jesus is the Savior of the World, Virgin-born Son of God, Son of Man (God in
Human Flesh). The fulfillment of Messianic Prophecy.**

The New Covenant is NOT like the Old Mosaic Covenant (Jer. 31:31-33)

- a. No Levitical Priesthood**
- b. Not Temple/Tabernacle-Centric**
- c. Missional – Spreading of the Gospel (Matt. 28:10-20; Acts 1:8) to all the
people groups (Gentiles, etc.)**

**By 70 A.D. (less than 20 years) the Temple will be destroyed –
& the Levitical Priesthood will be disbanded, etc.**

The Root of the Persecution against Paul is the CLASH of Two Covenants and...

3. → Paul was viewed as a Betrayer of His Own People –

Remember – He was an insider.

**Known by the High Priest and his family and all the Elders on the Council
(the Sandhedrin)**

The Rumor was the he was teaching things contrary to God's Laws and the Traditions and Customs of Israel, etc.

The Truth was, the Paul was Preaching God's Word – according to the New Covenant. These Jews rejected the New Covenant, and clung onto the Old Covenant. And they were willing to Kill Paul for his Public Betrayal. Similar to a person on the inside within the Mafia – Exposing the Mafia Publicly – it would be as if he is Betraying everyone – “he deserves to die” (see Acts 23:12-15)

4. When Persecution occurs we cannot see what God is doing behind the scenes

When Paul's nephew just happened to overhear the conspiracy of the over 40 men who bound themselves with an oath to Murder Paul ... just happened to be there – was that a coincidence?

Acts 23:16-18 - So when Paul's sister's son heard of their ambush, he went and entered the barracks and told Paul. ¹⁷ Then Paul called one of the centurions to him and said, "Take this young man to the commander, for he has something to tell him." ¹⁸ So he took him and brought him to the commander and said, "Paul the prisoner called me to him and asked me to bring this young man to you. He has something to say to you."

We must Trust God in the midst of Persecution – God may be working things out behind the scenes – so that the Gospel will have more Open Doors and Spread more and may lead to your rescue ... but even if it doesn't lead to our rescue (physically) we should want our experience of Persecution to be used by God to Spread the Gospel even further. Persecution is Promised to us in Matthew 5:10-12, Matthew 10 & other passages. We are to Rejoice regardless

5. Our FAITHFULNESS in our experience of Persecution can lead to more Open Doors for the Gospel.

When Paul arrived safely in Caesarea at Herod's Praetorium, under Governor Felix' care ... Acts 23:31-35 → we see more Open Doors:

Then the soldiers, as they were commanded, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris. ³² The next day they left the horsemen to go on with him, and returned to the barracks. ³³ When they came to Caesarea and had delivered the letter to the governor, they also presented Paul to him. ³⁴ And when the governor had read it, he asked what province he was from. And when he understood that he was from Cilicia, ³⁵ he said,

“I will HEAR you when your accusers also have come.”

And he commanded him to be kept in Herod's Praetorium.

So, we see that Paul's FAITHFULNESS in the Proclamation of the Gospel, His Personal Testimony, and never giving up, led to more Open Doors.

What should we learn from this? What is God saying to you, today?