

Church of God Sunday School

PAUL EXPERIENCES GOD'S PROTECTION

Acts 21:15-40; 22:1-30; 23:1-24

When people become Christians, they might feel like all their troubles are over. But it is not long before they find out Christians have troubles too. The difference is that the Christian has God to help and protect during times of trouble. A good example of this is the life of the Apostle Paul. He experienced many troubles, but God was with him through them all.

Paul traveled to Jerusalem and told the brethren all that God had been doing among the Gentiles through Paul's preaching. When they heard this, they gave glory to God.

It was not long until a false report was told about Paul. Paul had been seen in the city with a Gentile man named Trophimus (*TROF-uh-muhs*). People believed that Paul had taken this Gentile into the temple (this would have been punishable by death). Although no one had seen this happen, many people believed it was true.

As Paul began to enter the temple, a crowd of angry people grabbed him and dragged him out. They were about to kill him when the chief captain heard what was going on. He took soldiers and centurions and ran quickly to stop the people.

Paul was bound with two chains, and the chief captain demanded that the crowd tell him who Paul was and what he had done. First the people shouted one thing and then another. The captain was unable to find out the trouble. So he commanded Paul to be brought into the castle.

As the soldiers led Paul up the stairs to the castle, Paul asked the chief captain if he

could speak to the people. When the captain gave permission, Paul motioned to the people with his hand. The loud, angry crowd became silent. (God was certainly working through Paul.)

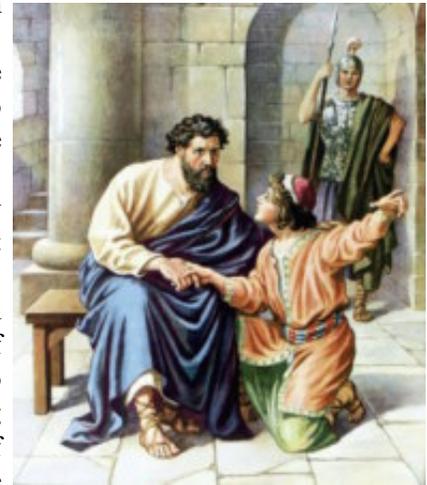
Paul told the people the story of his life—how he met Jesus on the Damascus road and of the many things that had happened since then. The people listened quietly to Paul until he told them that God had sent him to preach to the Gentiles. Then they began to yell, "Away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live."

The people were so angry that they "cast off their clothes, and threw dust into the air." The chief captain commanded that Paul be brought inside the castle and be beaten, hoping to learn the truth of why the crowd "cried so against him."

As they were tying Paul's hands, Paul told a centurion who stood nearby that he was a Roman citizen. (It was against the law to whip a Roman citizen who had not been tried and convicted of a crime.) The centurion told the chief captain, who became afraid because he had bound a Roman.

The next day more than forty Jews planned to end Paul's life. The chief priests and elders were to ask for Paul to be brought before them, pretending that they needed to ask him some questions. The Jews would be hiding, ready to kill Paul before he got there.

Paul's nephew overheard the plot to kill his uncle. He told Paul, and Paul told one of the centurions to "bring this young man unto the chief captain: for he



hath a certain thing to tell him." When the chief captain heard this, he sent Paul out of the city to Felix the governor.

For Paul's safety, he was sent at night with two centurions, two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen. Truly God was protecting Paul in a wonderful way!

Over and over again, God protected Paul. In just this lesson, Paul was protected from an angry Jewish

mob, from a severe beating by the chief captain, and from a plot by the Jews to kill him! Just as God protected Paul so many times, He will protect you too.

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."  
—Psalm 46:1*



Leaving the city

# Guide Paul Through Jerusalem



Castle



Temple



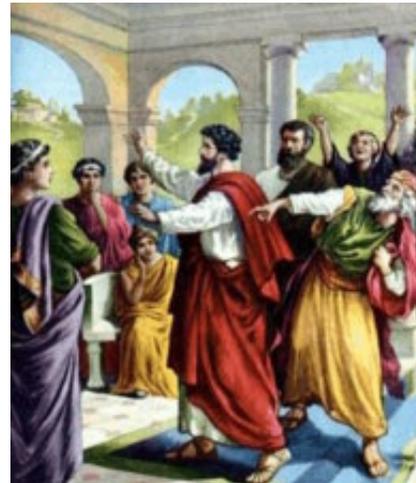


## Paul Speaks to the Crowd of People

# Write the Story Below



1. Paul tells all God has done



2. Paul enters the temple



3. Soldiers rescue Paul



4. Paul speaks to the crowd



5. Paul's hands are bound

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_