

Welcome to

Journey through the Bible



**Book by book
Bible study**

**The Pilgrim Fathers landed at
Plymouth Rock, November 21, 1620**



An unlikely time for giving thanks!

In late November 1620 the Mayflower landed at Plymouth, N.E. after a hazardous voyage across the north Atlantic. Their hardships were just beginning. 102 passengers landed on the rocky shore to face the bitter winter with no shelter and very little food. They were forced to lie on bare ground without cover in the extremity of winter. 40 died that first winter and 6 more the following summer.

They began a thanksgiving tradition!

Even with half their number dead the survivors were thankful for their new life in a new land. On the first anniversary of their arrival they held a three-day thanksgiving feast. They “gave thanks for freedom, survival, food, friendly Indians and a hopeful future.”

The first Thanksgiving in America

On the first anniversary (1621) one pilgrim wrote this letter to his cousin in England,

“the country very pleasant and temperate, yielding naturally of itself great store of fruites ... Better grain cannot be than the Indian corne ... We are all free-holders, the rent day doth not trouble us; and all those good blessings we have, of which and what we list in their seasons for the taking.”

“Our companie are for the most part very religious honest people; the word of God sincerely taught us every Sabbath: so that I know not any thing a contented mind can here want. I desire your friendly care to send my wife and children to me, where I wish all the friends I have in England, and so I rest,” Your loving kinsman, WILLIAM HILTON, December 13, 1621

Let us join them in giving thanks!

Antioch, a mission minded church

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. (13:1–3)

Paul’s Missionary Strategy

- ★ Targeting strategic cities- 13:5
- ★ Preaching in Jewish synagogue first- 13:5
- ★ Seeking out prepared hearts- 13:16, 26
- ★ Starting on common ground- 13:17-22;
- ★ Proclaiming Jesus, promised One- 13:23
- ★ Inviting, instructing believers- 13:38-43
- ★ Organizing churches, with elders- 14:23
- ★ Enlisting co-laborers- 15:40; 16:1-5

An intelligent man seeks the truth

The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabus and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. But Bar-Jesus the sorcerer opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. Then Saul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, "You are a child of the devil ... Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? (13:7-11)

The blind see - seeing become blind

"Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the light of the sun."

Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord. (13:10-12)

In a synagogue at Pisidian Antioch

"Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! The God of the people of Israel ... made David their king ... from this man's descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised. ... Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent. (13:16-26)

Christ, the heart of Paul's message

"The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets ... they asked Pilate to have him executed. When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. (13:27-31)

Paul's invitation to saving faith

"Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, ...

When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed. The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. (13:36-39)

The response and the reaction

On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy. They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him.

Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. (13:44-46)

Opposition cannot stop God's Word

When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. But the Jewish leaders ... stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. (13:48-52)

The Jerusalem Council, Acts 15

Three Critical Issues:

1. Has the wall of separation between Jew and Gentile been torn down? Yes!
2. Is circumcision required for salvation of Gentiles? (15:1) No!
3. Must Gentiles be required to obey the Law of Moses? (15:5) No!

Paul receives “the Macedonian call”

... having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. ... went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. (16:6–10)

Paul’s Second Mission, 16-18

Places:	• People and Events:
Revisit churches begun on first mission	• Barnabus, Paul separate
Troas (Asia, Bythinia)	• Silas chosen & Timothy
Philippi	• Macedonian call at Troas
Thessalonica to Berea	• Lydia converted + jailer, Paul in prison
Athens to Corinth	• Church persecuted
Ephesus to Jerusalem	• Aquilla/Priscilla-Corinth
Return to Antioch	• Thessalonians written

The “prison break” at Philippi

After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison. The jailer put them in the inner cell, and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a violent earthquake ... all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. (16:22-25)

Philippian jailer and his family saved

The jailer ... brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ... he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.(16:29–34).

Thessalonian, a typical NT church

Paul went into the synagogue, ... reasoned with them from the Scriptures explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,” he said. Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women. But other Jews were jealous ... formed a mob. (17:1-9)

Berean believers set the standard

The believers sent Paul and Silas to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. The Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. As a result, many of them believed. (17:10-12)

Paul at Athens, the ‘unknown God’

“The God who made the world ... gives life to all men ... God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him. ... now commands all people everywhere to repent. He has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this by raising him from the dead. ... A few believed. (17:22-34)

Paul’s tent making ministry at Corinth

because Paul was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. Every Sabbath he reasoned in the Synagogue ... Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” (18:1-6)

Paul's extended ministry at Corinth

One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city." So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God. (18:9–11)

Paul returns briefly to Antioch, then begins his third missionary journey

Paul's extended ministry at Ephesus

Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

(19:8–10)

Paul's passion is to proclaim Christ

"Now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. (20:22–24)

Paul's farewell and benediction

"I commit you to God ... I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

(20:32–35)

Paul at Ephesus, John's disciples

Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all. (19:4–7)

Paul's report to the 'sending church'

You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.

(20:18–21)

His challenge to the church elders

"I know that none of you ... will ever see me again. Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. (20:25–28)

See you next week!

Acts 21-28

Paul's Journey to Rome

