**Five Times Delivered**

Studied by Mike McGlathery

Just as the Lord used Nebuchadnezzar to chastise Israel for its unbelief, and to send Israel back to rebuild Jerusalem, so also, the Lord used various means to deliver Paul during his grace remnant ministry (**Romans 11:5, and 7**), the work (**Acts 13:2, and 41**), which was a dispensation of the gospel of Christ (**First Corinthians 9:17, and 18**).

In Acts 26:16-17, Paul tells of his **EARLY** commission by Christ to the people, and the Gentiles. Notice this **EARLY** sending does not say to "ALL the people (Jews), and to ALL the Gentiles".

**Acts 26:16,**  But rise, and stand upon thy feet:

for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose,

to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen,

and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

**Acts 26:17,**  Delivering thee

from the people, and

from the Gentiles,

unto whom **NOW I SEND THEE**,

Now lets look at Paul **LATER** sending.

**Acts 22:17,**  And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem,

even while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance;

**Acts 22:18,**  And saw him saying unto me,

Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem:

for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me.

**Acts 22:19,**  And I said, Lord, they know that

I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee:

**Acts 22:20,**  And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed,

I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death,

and kept the raiment of them that slew him.

**Acts 22:21,**  And he said unto me,

Depart: for **I WILL SEND THEE** far hence unto the Gentiles.

**2 Timothy 4:17**,  Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me;

that by me the preaching might be fully known,

and that **ALL THE GENTILES** might hear:

and I was **DELIVERED** out of the mouth of the lion.

(no longer in this world that is governed by the god of this world, SATAN).

**1 Peter 5:8,**  Be sober, be vigilant;

because your adversary **THE DEVIL, AS A ROARING LION**,

walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

**So, there is a big difference in the 2 types of sendings, a present tense sending first ("NOW I SEND THEE"), and then later issuing a future tense sending ("I WILL SEND THEE").** ,

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Let's look at the times God **delivered Paul** in one way or another, and let's see **from whom** Paul was delivered, so we can know **to whom** Christ was first sending Paul.

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1. Let's explore Paul's witness at Damascus.

**Acts 9:22,**  But Saul increased the more in strength,

and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus,

proving that this is very Christ.

**Acts 9:23,**  And after that many days were fulfilled,

**THE JEWS TOOK COUNSEL TO KILL HIM**:

**Acts 9:24,**  But their laying await was known of Saul.

And they watched the gates day and night to kill him.

**Acts 9:25,**  Then **THE DISCIPLES TOOK HIM BY NIGHT,**

**AND LET HIM DOWN BY THE WALL IN A BASKET**.

In **Acts 9:25**, Paul was delivered from "**THE JEWS**" that were in **Acts 9:23**.

2. Let's see from whom Christ delivered Paul in Lystra, Pisidian Antioch, and Iconium.

**Acts 14:19,**  And there came thither **CERTAIN JEWS** from Antioch and Iconium,

who **PERSUADED THE PEOPLE**,

(THE JEWS)

and, having stoned Paul,

drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

**Acts 14:20,**  Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him,

**HE ROSE UP**, and came into the city:

and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

**Acts 14:21,**  And when they had preached the gospel to that city,

and had taught many,

they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

**Acts 14:22,**  Confirming the souls of the disciples,

and exhorting them to continue in the faith,

and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

**Acts 14:23,**  And when they had ordained them **elders in every** church,

and had prayed **WITH FASTING**,

they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

In **Acts 14:20,** Paul was delivered from **"CERTAIN JEWS**" that were in **Acts 14:19.**

3. Let's review the situaton in Thessalonica.

**Acts 17:5,**  But **THE JEWS WHICH BELIEVED NOT**, moved with envy,

took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort,

and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar,

and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

**Acts 17:6,**  And when they found them not,

they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying,

These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;

**Acts 17:7,**  Whom Jason hath received:

and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar,

saying that there is another king, one Jesus.

**Acts 17:8,**  And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city,

when they heard these things.

**Acts 17:9,**  And when they had taken security of Jason,

and of the other, they let them go.

**Acts 17:10,**  And **THE BRETHREN IMMEDIATELY SENT AWAY**

**PAUL AND SILAS BY NIGHT UNTO BEREA**:

who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

In **Acts 17:10**, Paul was delivered from "**THE JEWS WHICH BELIEVED NOT"** in **Acts 17:5.**

4. Paul's temple vision.

**Acts 18:22,**  And when he had landed at Caesarea,

and gone up,

and **SALUTED THE CHURCH**,

**he went** down to Antioch.

Look at Paul's later description of his temple vision.

**Acts 22:17,**  And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem,

even while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance;

**Acts 22:18,**  And saw him saying unto me,

Make haste, and **GET THEE QUICKLY OUT OF JERUSALEM:**

**FOR THEY WILL NOT RECEIVE THY TESTIMONY CONCERNING ME.**

**Acts 22:19,**  And I said, Lord,

they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue

them that believed on thee:

**Acts 22:20,**  And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed,

I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death,

and kept the raiment of them that slew him.

**Acts 22:21,**  And he said unto me,

**DEPART**: for **I WILL SEND THEE** far hence unto the Gentiles.

**Acts 18:22,**  And when he had landed at Caesarea,

and gone up,

and **saluted the church,**

**HE WENT DOWN TO ANTIOCH**.

In **Acts 22:18 and 21**, Christ himself delivered Paul by telling him to

"**GET THEE QUICKLY OUT OF JERUSALEM"**

and to

"**DEPART".**

In that way, Paul was delivered from **"THEY"** in **Acts 22:18**

**"FOR THEY WILL NOT RECEIVE THY TESTIMONY CONCERNING ME."** in **Acts 22:18.**

**"THEY"** were the **Jews** in Jerusalem.

5. Leaving Ephesus, Paul went through Macedonia to Greece.

**Acts 20:1**And after the uproar was ceased, Paul called unto him the disciples,

and embraced them, and departed for to go into Macedonia.

**Acts 20:2,**  And when he had gone over those parts,

and had given them much exhortation, he came into Greece,

**Acts 20:3,**  And there abode three months.

And when **THE JEWS LAID WAIT FOR HIM**, as he was about to sail into Syria,

**HE PURPOSED TO RETURN THROUGH MACEDONIA**.

In **Acts 20:3**, Paul was delivered "**THE JEWS**" in **Acts 20:3,**

as "**HE PURPOSED TO RETURN THROUGH MACEDONIA".**

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That was five times that Paul was delivered from **"THE JEWS".**

According to Acts 26:16-17, that means that **it was the Jews** that Christ **sent Paul to** in that sending (his first sending).

See, Paul's later, all-men sending when he was delivered from this world.

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**Philippians 4:15,**  Now ye Philippians know also, that

in **THE BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL**,

**WHEN I DEPARTED FROM MACEDONIA**,

no church communicated with me

as concerning giving and receiving,

but ye only.

**Acts 20:6,**  And **WE SAILED AWAY FROM PHILIPPI** after the days of unleavened bread,

and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days.

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**Acts 21:27**¶And when the seven days were almost ended,

**THE JEWS WHICH WERE OF ASIA**, when they saw him in the temple,

stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him,

**Acts 22:17**,  And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem,

even while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance;

**Acts 22:18**,  And saw him saying unto me,

Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem:

for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me.

**Acts 22:19**,  And I said, Lord,

they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue

them that believed on thee:

**Acts 22:20**,  And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed,

I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death,

and kept the raiment of them that slew him.

**Acts 22:21**,  And he said unto me,

Depart: for **I WILL SEND THEE** far hence unto the Gentiles.

Acts 22:22,  And **THEY** gave him audience unto this word,

and then lifted up **THEIR** voices, and said,

**AWAY WITH SUCH A FELLOW FROM THE EARTH:**

**FOR IT IS NOT FIT THAT HE SHOULD LIVE.**

**Acts 22:23**,  And as **THEY** cried out, and cast off **THEIR** clothes,

and threw dust into the air,

In **2nd Timothy 4, verses 6 through 18**,

**2 Timothy 4:6**  For I am now **ready to be offered**,

and the time of **my departure is at hand**.

**2 Timothy 4:7**  I have fought a good fight, I have **finished my course**, I have kept the faith:

**2 Timothy 4:8**  Henceforth there is laid up for me

**a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me** at that day:

and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

**2 Timothy 4:16**  ¶At my first answer no man stood with me, but **all men forsook me**: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.

**2 Timothy 4:17**  Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me;

that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that **all the Gentiles might hear:**

and **I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion**.

**2 Timothy 4:18**  And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

In Acts, Paul was delivered from "THE JEWS" five times. After the end of Acts, "all men forsook" him, when Paul was **delivered from this life**, the Lord **delivered** Paul, **preserving** him "unto **his heavenly kingdom**".

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So, in Acts 9 at the time of **Paul's salvation**, according to **Paul's testimony** before King Agrippa, Christ had **sent Paul to** the apostate Jews, as well as, the Greeks that were not a people, but that knew they **needed to bless Israel** to be blessed by God, but they **did not yet know** that Jesus of Mary was **that prophesied Messiah** they had been waiting on. That is the meaning of:

**Romans 10:12**  For there is **no difference** between the **JEW AND THE GREEK**:

for the same Lord over all is rich unto **ALL THAT CALL UPON HIM**.

In Israel's kingdom program, anybody, Jew or Gentile **could follow God's requirements** to become right with God, whether they were Jews, or whether they were Greeks who were Gentiles seeking the wisdom and knowledge of God in Israel's doctrine.

Compare “Jew and Greek” in **Romans 1:16**, with Jew and Gentile in **Acts 26:16-17**).

**Romans 1:16**  For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

**Acts 26:16**  But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

**Acts 26:17**  Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,

The ones Christ delivered Paul from equal the Jews and GREEKS that the gospel of Christ was SENT to.

The ones that Christ had to **deliver Paul from**.

* by Mike McGlathery