

⁴¹ Paul and Silas began going through the province of Syria and the province of Cilicia, helping the communities stand firm. ^{16.1} Paul arrived at Derbe and Lystra and an apprentice was there by the name of Timothy—the child of a trusting, Judean woman, but whose father was Greek. ² Timothy was being testified to by the brothers in Lystra and Iconium ³ and so Paul wanted Timothy to go with him. Because the Judeans in those places all knew that Timothy possessed a Greek father, Paul took Timothy and circumcised him. ⁴ As they were going through all the cities, they were giving over the decrees that the representatives and elders who were in Jerusalem had judged to be guarded. ⁵ As such, the communities were being helped to stand firm through trust and they were abounding in numbers daily.

⁶ After being prevented by the Divine Breath from speaking the word in the province of Asia, Paul, Silas, and Timothy went through the land of Phrygia and the province of Galatia. ⁷ Coming toward Mysia, they began testing whether they could go into the province of Bithynia, but the Breath of Jesus did not allow them. ⁸ Going by Mysia, they went down into Troas. ⁹ There, Paul saw a vision during the night of a man from the province of Macedonia exhorting him and saying,

“Go through into the province of Macedonia to support us!”

¹⁰ When Paul saw the vision, we immediately sought to go out into the province of Macedonia, concluding that the Creator had called us to declare the Gospel to them. ¹¹ Going up from Troas, we made a straight course toward the island of Samothrace and then we went to Neapolis. ¹² From there we went to Philippi, which was the first city colonized by Rome in that part of the province of Macedonia, and we began staying in that city for some days.

¹³ On the day of the Sabbaths, we came outside of the gate near the river, where we were supposing there was a prayer place. Sitting down, we began speaking to the women who had come together. ¹⁴ A the Creator revering woman named Lydia, a seller of purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, began listening. The Lord opened her heart to be attentive to what was being spoken by Paul. ¹⁵ When she and her house were baptized, she was exhorting them, saying,

“If you judge me to trust the Lord, come remain in my house!”

And she forced us to come.

¹⁶ While we were going to the prayer place, a servant, having a breath of fortune-telling, confronted us. The work she was doing, while she was out of her mind, was providing much to her lords. ¹⁷ Following behind Paul and us, she began shouting, saying,

“These persons are slaves of the highest Creator! They are announcing to you a way of rescue!”

¹⁸ She was doing this for many days. Being provoked and turning back, Paul said to the breath,

“I direct you in the name of Jesus, the Anointed, to come out from her!”

And it came out from her that hour. ¹⁹ Her lords, seeing the hope of their work come out from her, took hold of Paul and Silas and hauled them into the place of trade before the leaders. ²⁰ Bringing them to the military officers, they said,

“These Judean persons are agitating our city, possessing ²¹ and announcing customs which are not appropriate for us as Romans to receive or do!”

²² The crowd came against them and the military officers, after tearing through Paul and Silas’s garments, began instructing them to be beaten with staffs. ²³ After wounding them, they threw Paul and Silas under guard, directing the prison-guards to keep them securely. ²⁴ Receiving this direction, the prison-guards threw them under the tightest guard, fastening their feet in a piece of wood. ²⁵ While praying at midnight, Paul and Silas began singing hymns to the Creator and those in bondage began listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly, such a great earthquake happened that the foundations of the detention center were overthrown. Immediately all the doors

were opened and all the bonds let loose. ²⁷ Coming out of a slumber and seeing the doors he was guarding to be opened, the prison-guard drew his sword and was about to execute himself, assuming those in bondage to have fled. ²⁸ Paul voiced with a great voice, saying,

“Do not harm yourself! For we are all here!”

²⁹ Asking for a light, the prison-guard rushed in and fell before Paul and Silas, trembling. ³⁰ Bringing them outside, he enlightened,

“Lords, what must I do to be rescued?”

³¹ They said,

“Trust the Lord Jesus and you and your house will be rescued!”

³² They spoke to him the word of the Lord, along with all those in his house. ³³ Taking them along in that hour of the night, the prison-guard bathed their wounds and he and all of his own were baptized immediately. ³⁴ After they went up into the house, the prison-guard set a table for them and he rejoiced that the whole house trusted the Creator. ³⁵ When it became day, the military officers sent the police, saying,

“Release those persons.”

³⁶ The prison-guard reported these words to Paul,

“The military officers released you, therefore, go in harmony!”

³⁷ Paul enlightened them,

“After whipping us Romans without the public’s judgment, they threw us under guard and now they are casting us out secretly? No! They must come to us and bring us out.”

³⁸ The police reported these matters to the military officers and they became afraid, hearing that they were Romans. ³⁹ So the military officers went to Paul and Silas and, bringing them out, they began requesting Paul and Silas to leave the city. ⁴⁰ Coming out from being under guard, Paul and Silas went to Lydia and, after exhorting the brothers, they departed.