

GOING 'UP' TOWARDS AND 'DOWN' AWAY FROM JERUSALEM DURING OUR MODERN CHURCH AGE

1. Peter and John in the temple

Acts 3:1 Peter and John went UP [towards the temple] together into the temple

2. Stephen's preaching in Jerusalem. (Even when relating history.)

Acts 7:15 Jacob went DOWN [away from Jerusalem] into Egypt

3. After Cornelius' conversion

Acts 11:2 Peter came UP to Jerusalem [from Caesarea]

4. Philip's preaching in Samaria. (Even angels use it.)

Acts 8:5 Philip went DOWN [from Jerusalem] to the city of Samaria

Acts 8:15 Who [Peter and John], when they were come DOWN [from Jerusalem to Samaria], prayed for them

Acts 8:26 The angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Go ... to the road that goes DOWN from Jerusalem to Gaza."

5. Paul's flight from Jerusalem

Acts 9:30 They brought [Paul] DOWN to Caesarea [from Jerusalem], and sent him forth to Tarsus

6. Peter's Judaeian ministry

Acts 9:32 As Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came DOWN [from Jerusalem] also to ... Lydda

7. After Peter's escape from prison

Acts 12:19 [Peter] went DOWN from Judaea to Caesarea

8. The end of the 1st missionary journey to Galatia. (Even when in a foreign country far from Jerusalem.)

Acts 14:25-26 When they had preached the word in Perga, they went DOWN [west, away from Jerusalem] to Attalia, and from there sailed to Antioch [Syria]

9. The Law dispute in Acts 15

Acts 15:1 Certain men which came DOWN from Judaea [to Antioch Syria] taught the brethren

Acts 15:2 They determined that Paul and Barnabas ... should go UP to Jerusalem [from Antioch Syria]

10. The beginning of the second missionary journey to Greece. (Even when in a foreign country far from Jerusalem)

Acts 16:8 They passing by Mysia came DOWN [west, away from Jerusalem] to Troas

11. After the 2nd Missionary Journey to Greece. (Without this rule, you wouldn't know which church Paul saluted. Used twice in same sentence.)

Acts 18:22 When he had landed at Caesarea, and gone UP [to Jerusalem] and saluted the church, he went DOWN to Antioch [Syria, from Jerusalem]

12. Paul's final journey to Jerusalem to be imprisoned after the 3rd missionary journey to Ephesus

Acts 21:10 There came DOWN from Judaea [to Caesarea] a certain prophet named Agabus

Acts 21:12 Both we, and they of that place, begged him not to go UP to Jerusalem [from Caesarea]

Acts 21:15 We took up our carriages, and went UP to Jerusalem [from Caesarea]

13. Paul's trial before Felix. (Use of word 'descended.' Used by narrators, God and Luke.)

Acts 24:1 After five days Ananias the high priest DESCENDED with the elders

Acts 24:22 Felix ... said, When Lysias the chief captain shall come DOWN [from Jerusalem to Caesarea], I will know the uttermost of your matter

14. Paul's trial before Festus. (Use of word 'ascended.')

Acts 25:1 After three days [Festus] ASCENDED from Caesarea to Jerusalem.

Acts 25:5 Let them ... go DOWN [from Jerusalem to Caesarea] with me [Festus], and accuse [Paul]

Acts 25:6 [Festus] went DOWN [from Jerusalem] to Caesarea

Acts 25:7 The Jews which came DOWN from Jerusalem [to Caesarea] stood round about

THE PURPOSE OF THE BOOK OF ACTS AND THE HEART OF GOD

Paul offered animal sacrifices and promoted circumcision

Acts 21:21-25. They are informed of you, that you teach all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to apostatize from Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, nor to walk after the customs. ... We have four men which have a vow. ... Purify thyself with them, and all may know that those things, which they were informed about you, are nothing, but that you yourself also walk orderly, and keep the law. As for the Gentiles which believe, we have written [in Acts 15] ... that they observe no such thing.

1 Cor. 7:18. Is any man called being circumcised? Let him not become uncircumcised [abandon his Jewish identity].

Defense before the chief captain. Paul said "I AM a Pharisee," not, "I WAS a Pharisee"

Acts 23:6-10. When Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Men and brethren, I AM a Pharisee."

Defense before Felix. Did Paul go to Jerusalem after his 3rd missionary journey to bring alms to his nation? (Jewish believers have dual citizenship.)

Acts 24:17. "Now after many years, I came to bring alms to my nation."

1 Cor. 10:31-32. Whether therefore you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God.

There are still Jews and Greeks, employers and employees, males and females.

Gal. 3:24. The law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Messiah, so that we could be justified by faith. ... For as many of you as have been baptized into Messiah have put on Messiah. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Messiah Jesus.

Acts 28:30-31. And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, ... preaching the [Messianic] kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Messiah.

HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO ROMANS?

The structure of Romans

All are sinners (1-2a), and the Jews are sinners (2b-3a).

All are justified by faith (3b), and the Jews are justified by faith (4).

All who have been justified are being sanctified (5-6), and the Jews who have been justified are being sanctified.

All who have been justified will be glorified (8a), and Israel will be glorified (9-11).

'His people' refers to ethnic Jews, not the church. (Which tribe are you from?)

Rom. 11:1-2. I say then, Has God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not cast away his people which he foreknew.

The resurrection will occur when Israel is restored. (David didn't prophesy the church would be temporarily blinded.)

Rom. 11:8-15 David says, ... Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see. ... Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid. ... For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?

Israel's blindness is PARTIAL and TEMPORARY. (Not "blindness in part has happened to the church.")

Rom. 11:25-26 For I would not, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness IN PART is happened to Israel, UNTIL the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written.

All ISRAEL will be saved. (The 'church' isn't your enemies concerning the gospel. God has to keep his promises to the ones he made the promises to.)

Rom. 11:26-29 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There will come out of Sion the Deliverer, and will turn away ungodliness from Jacob [not the church], for this is my covenant to them, when I will take away their sins. As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes, but as touching the election, they are beloved for the father's sakes [Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the 12]. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.