

ACTS 16.
PHILIPPI

SUPERNATURAL PRISON BREAK!

WHAM!



CRACK!



CELEBRATING WOMEN IN MINISTRY!



FIRST EUROPEAN CONVERTS!

EXORCISM & CONSEQUENCES.



PAUL AND SILAS FLOGGED.



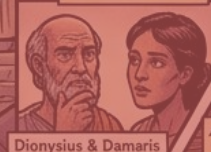
PAUL'S JOURNEY: DAY 42

PHILOSOPHY ON THE AREOPAGUS.



ACTS 17.
ATHENS

DEBATING THE "UNKNOWN GOD".



Dionysia & Damaris

ACTS 21, TYRE/

PROPHECY & PETITIONS.



FOUR DAUGHTERS WHO PROPHESED.

DO NOT GO TO JERUSALEM!



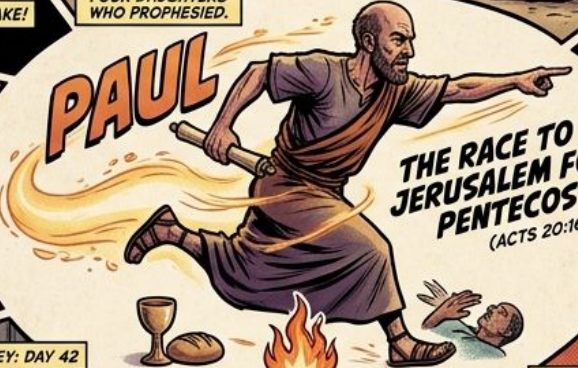
NEW BELIEVERS SHOWN PRAYING & KNEELING.

GRIEF-STRICKEN FAREWELL.



I SHALL SEE YOUR FACE NO MORE!

PAUL



THE RACE TO JERUSALEM FOR PENTECOST!
(ACTS 20:16)



BREAD BROKEN



HOLY SPIRIT IRRUPTION



HEALING MIRACLES

THE SONS OF SCEVA FAILING.

THE SEVEN SONS OF SCEVA

NAKED & WOUNDED

ACTS 20, TROAS

DEFENESTRATION AND REVIVIFICATION.

A



EUTYCHUS

3 STORIES DOWN.

B



HE IS ALIVE!

OUT, DOWN, AND UP!

ACTS 20, TROAS

RIOT OF ARTEMIS.

GREAT IS ARTEMIS!

SILVERSMITH DEMETRIUS STIRS UP A MOB AT THE OUTDOOR THEATER.

GREAT IS ARTEMIS!

ACTS 19, EPHEBUS.

THE GREAT BOOK BURNING!

LEGAL CHALLENGES & CIVIC UNREST.

ACTS

Acts 15:36
—21:16

ACTS 19, CORINTH

PRISCILLA & AQUILA: MINISTERS TOGETHER.

ACTS 19, EPHEBUS

IMMUNITY WITHOUT POWER!

BURNING THE PAST.

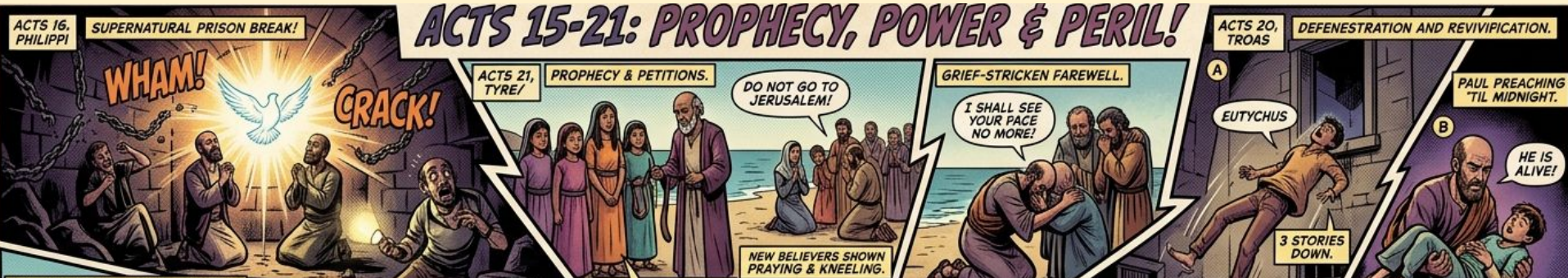
KIA IINOI TAATOU | LET US PRAY

Abba-Father, today we remember and celebrate the work of early Christians to establish communities of faith. At the same time, we remember church-builders and evangelists all over the world. May you grant them the energy and resources they need to grow your Kingdom. Likewise, empower us to be your missionaries in the spaces we inhabit. Amen.

TE KAUPAPA O TE RA | KEYSTONE

After some time Paul said to Barnabas, 'Let's go back and visit each city where we previously preached the word of the Lord, to see how the new believers are doing.'

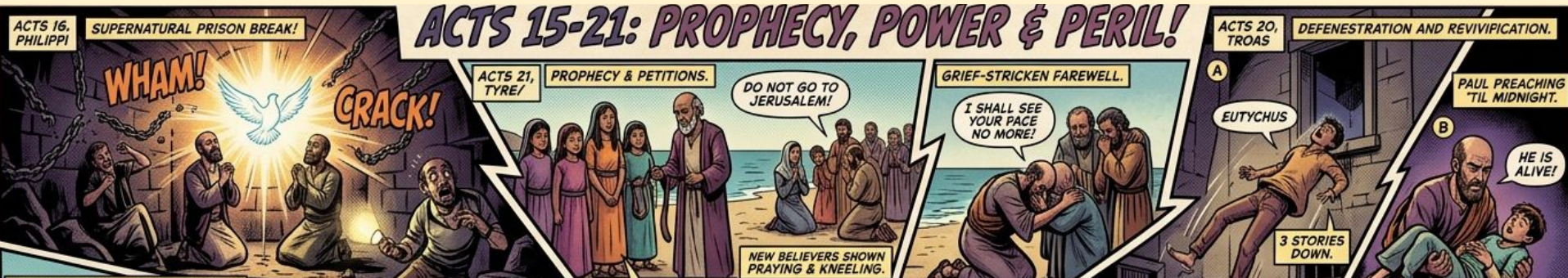
ACTS 15.36



WELCOME | NAU MAI HAERE MAI

Today:

- Recap(itulation) - week nine
- Acts 15-21: The Second and Third Missionary Journeys



THE
JERUSALEM COUNCIL

ACTS 15:1-21

OVERVIEW ACTS 15-21

- Supernatural prison breaks, evangelism, revelation, conversions, exorcism, flogging, legal challenges, riots, philosophy, education, irruptions of the Holy Spirit, miracles of healing, seven sons of Sceva sent on their naked way, book burnings, celebration of women in ministry, plots and schemes, confirmation of the bread broken on the first day of each week, the consequences of preaching too long (defenestration and revivification - a.k.a. out, down and up), the race to celebrate Pentecost in Jerusalem, grief-stricken farewells, prophecy, prayer and petitions!

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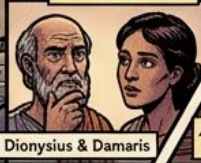
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DEBATING THE "UNKNOWN GOD".



Dionysius & Damaris

ACTS 18. CORINTH: CORINTH

TENTMAKING & TEACHING.



PRISCILLA & AQUILA: MINISTERS TOGETHER.

ACTS 15-21: PROPHECY, POWER & PERIL!

ACTS 21, TYRE!

PROPHECY & PETITIONS.



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3 STORIES DOWN.

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PAUL PREACHING 'TIL MIDNIGHT.



HE IS ALIVE!

OUT, DOWN, AND UP!

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BURNING THE PAST.





WOMEN IN ACTS

Faith & Opportunity

HIGHLIGHT – WOMEN

Under Roman law, a woman's civic and legal existence was entirely defined by male authority. In stark contrast, the early house churches offered women a subversion of these rigid legal structures, providing them with unprecedented levels of autonomy, leadership, and community status.



LITERARY CONTEXT

- Elite Political Status: They are imperial royal figures (like Livia or Cleopatra) whose actions directly impacted the political or military success of men. Livia Drusilla (Empress of Rome)
- Extreme Vice or Virtue: They are highlighted as moral exemplars of idealized domestic submissiveness, or vilified as dangerous, scheming seductresses who corrupted political figures. Poppaea Sabina (Empress of Rome)
- Victims of Tragedy: They are named to emphasize the cruelty of a tyrant or the horrors of a war. Salome Alexandra (Hasmonean Queen)



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NAMED WOMEN IN ACTS

Lydia: A wealthy merchant and dealer in purple cloth from Thyatira. She became Paul's first convert in Europe while he was visiting Philippi.

Damaris: An Athenian woman who is noted for believing Paul's message after he famously debated philosophers at the Areopagus (Mars Hill) in Athens.



NAMED WOMEN IN ACTS

Priscilla (also called Prisca): A Jewish Christian tentmaker who, alongside her husband Aquila, became a close ministry partner of Paul. She is notably mentioned for helping correctly instruct the preacher Apollos.

Artemis (Diana): The pagan goddess of the Ephesians. While not a historical human figure, her name is repeatedly invoked by the silversmiths of Ephesus during a massive civic riot against Paul's ministry.



OTHER WOMEN IN ACTS

Timothy's Mother: Identified only as a Jewish Christian believer married to a Greek man (later named as Eunice in 2 Timothy 1:5).

The Slave Girl at Philippi: A young woman possessed by a spirit of divination who earned money for her owners until Paul cast the demon out.



OTHER WOMEN IN ACTS

The Prominent Women of Thessalonica and

Berea: Groups of influential and high-ranking

Greek women who joined the early church movement.

Philip's Four Daughters: Mentioned in Caesarea as four unmarried daughters who possessed the spiritual gift of prophecy.

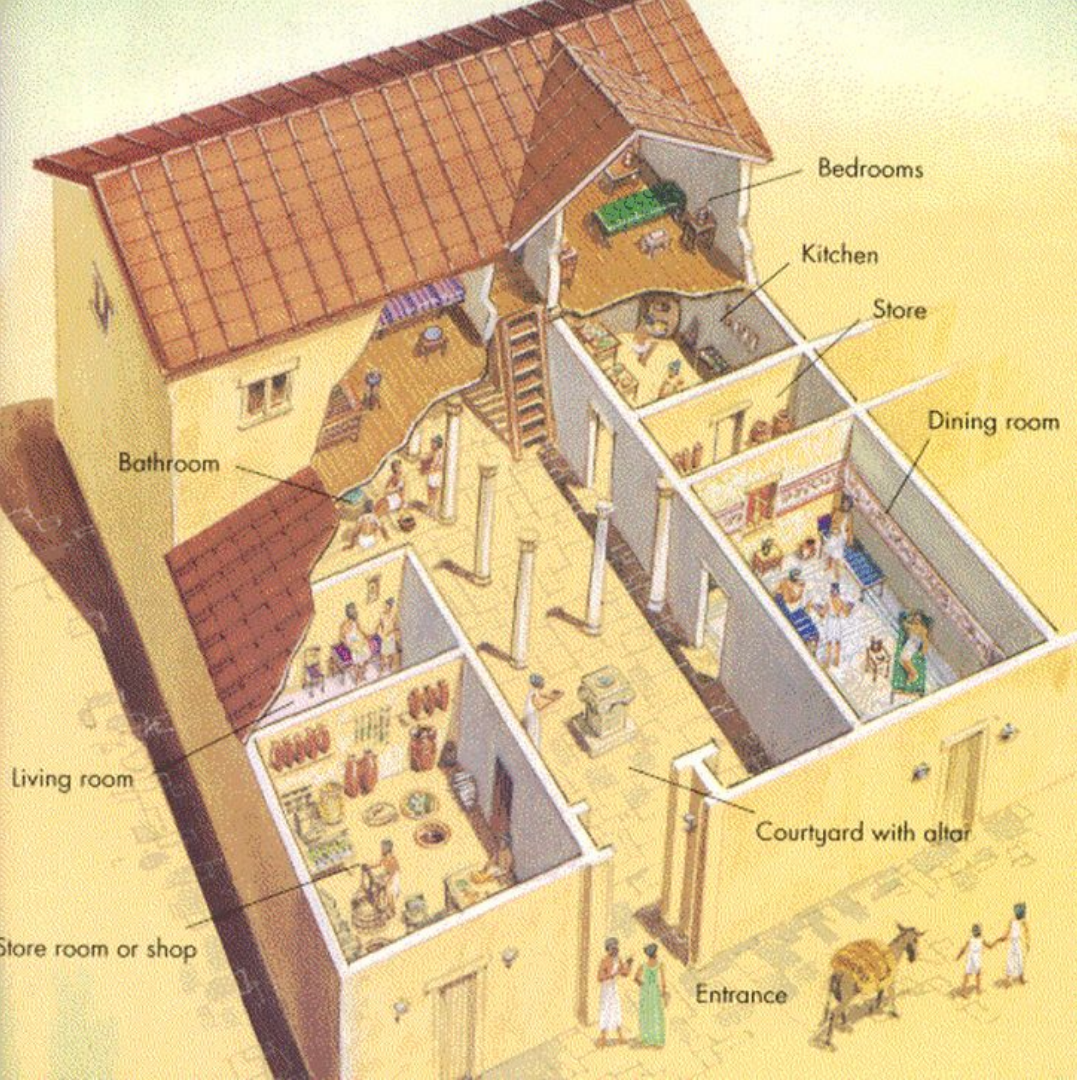


THE OPPORTUNITY

The house church model effectively exploited a legal loophole in Roman society: the privacy of the home. Because Roman law gave the head of a household significant autonomy over what happened within their private walls, women who owned or managed homes could transform those private spaces into radical, egalitarian communities:

1. Legal Ownership vs. Spiritual Guardianship
2. Financial Restrictions vs. Economic Influence
3. Forced Marriage vs. Vocational Freedom
4. Silenced in Civic Spaces vs. Speaking with Divine Authority





WEALTHY

Gather in dining Room -
triclinium (three couches)

MODEST

Dining rooms around 5x10 (c.
2.5m by 3m)

ALTERNATIVES

Riverbank (Acts 16), Lecture Hall
(Acts 19), workshops, hotels,
gardens, warehouses ...

- **1 Cor 14:26** What should be done then, my friends? When you come together, *each one* has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.
- **Eph 5:19** as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts,
- **Col 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish *one another* in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.
- **1 Tim 4:13** Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching.
- **Strengths to note:** Participation, involvement, engagement

Prof Paul Trebilco, Faith Thinking, University of Otago:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ga6RK4MScDg>

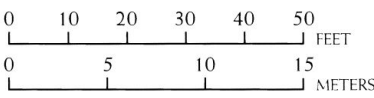
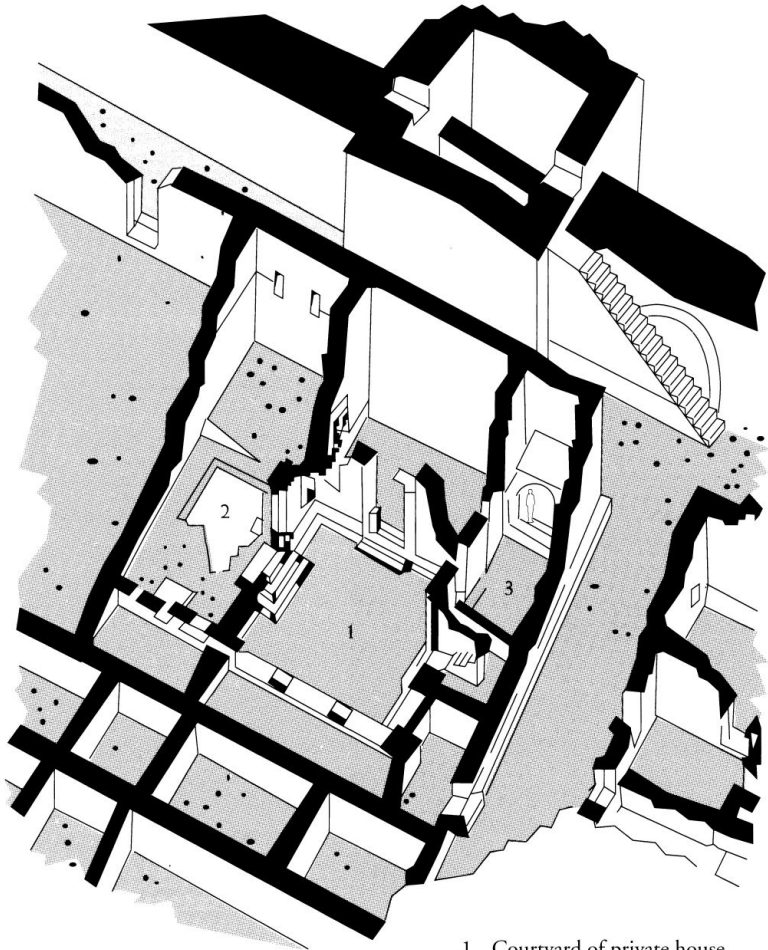
THOUGHT EXPERIMENT

- If you were in charge of a house church, what would it look like?
- What would be your number one priority?
- What are the risks of being in your house church?

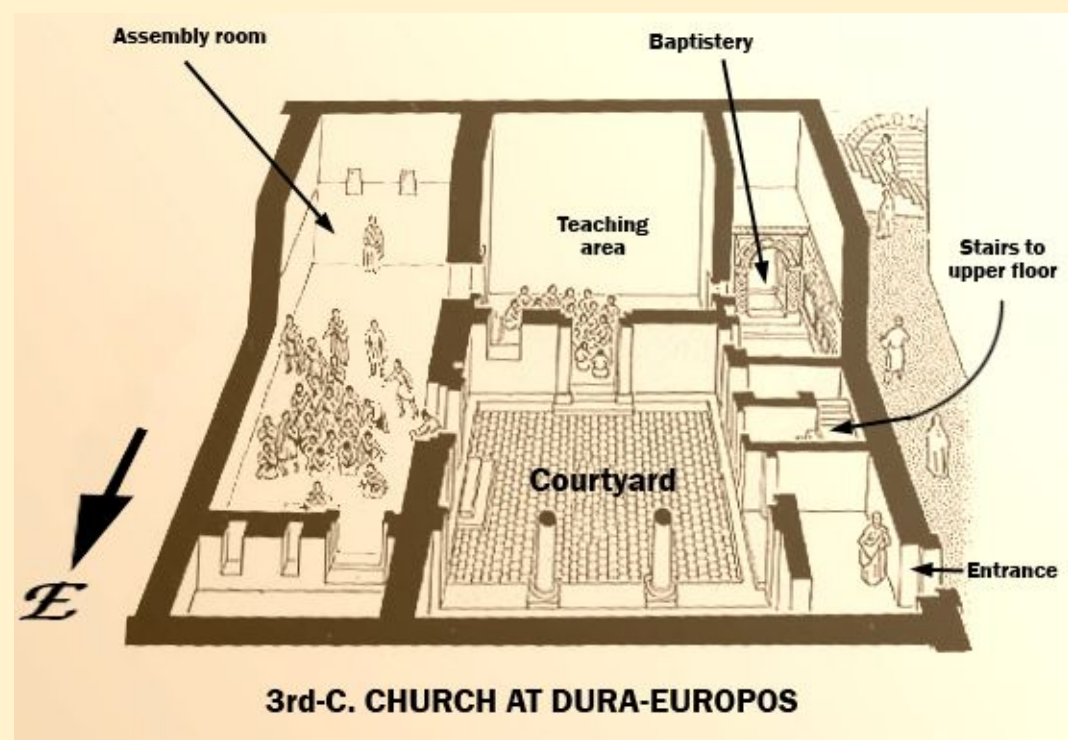




DURA EUROPOS, 232_{CE}



1. Courtyard of private house converted into Christian community house
2. Meeting hall
3. Baptistery



3rd-C. CHURCH AT DURA-EUPOPOS



NEXT WEEK

Week 11: The Gospel Goes to Rome (Acts 21:17–28:31)

