

“Persecution Ended – Set Free For Mission!”

Acts 16:35-40

... And when it was day, the **Magistrates** sent the **Officers**, saying, “Let those men go!” So, the **Keeper of the Prison** reported these words to **Paul**, saying, “The **Magistrates** have sent to let **You** go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace.” But **Paul** said to **Them (Officers)**, “**They (Magistrates)** have beaten **Us (Paul & Silas)** openly, uncondemned **Romans**, and have thrown **Us** into prison. And now do **They** put **Us** out secretly? No indeed! Let **Them** come **Themselves** and get **Us** out!” And the **Officers** told these words to the **Magistrates**, and **They (Magistrates)** were afraid when **They** heard that **They (Paul & Silas)** were **Romans**. Then **They** came and pleaded with **Them** and brought **Them** out, and asked **Them** to depart from the **City (Philippi)**. So, **They (Paul & Silas)** went out of the prison and entered the **House of Lydia**; and when **They (Paul & Silas)** had seen the **Brethren**, **They** encouraged **Them** and departed. **Acts 16:35-40 (NKJV)**

Q

**“What Was The Previous Context For Which
The Magistrates Sent For The Jailer The Next Morning?”**

A1 – Paul & Silas Had Been Wrongly Accused In A Public Trial The Day Before

... But when **Her Owners** saw that their hope of gain was gone [The Evil Spirit Was Exorcised Out Of The Slave Girl They Owned], **They** seized **Paul** and **Silas** and dragged **Them** into the Marketplace (City Square) before the **Rulers (Proconsul of the City of Philippi)** ...

... And when **They** had brought **Them** to the **Magistrates**, **They** said, “These **Men** are Jews, and **They** are disturbing **Our City**. **They** advocate customs (beliefs) that are not lawful for **Us as Romans** to accept (receive) or practice (observe)!” ... **Acts 16:19-21**

A2 – Paul & Silas Had Been Wrongly Beaten In Public The Day Before

...The **Crowd** joined in unison in attacking **Them (Paul & Silas)**, and the **Magistrates** tore the garments off **Them** and gave orders to beat **Them** with rods. And when **They** had inflicted many blows upon **Them** ... **Acts 16:22-23a**

A3 – Paul & Silas Had Been Wrongly Put Into Prison The Night Before

... **They (Magistrates)** threw **Them** into prison, ordering the **Jailer** to keep **Them** safely. Having received this order, **He (Jailer)** put **Them (Paul & Silas)** into the inner prison and fastened **Their Feet** in the stocks. **Acts 16:23bc-24**

Q

“What Were The City Official’s Hoping For By Letting Paul & Silas Go?”

A1

That They Would Make No More Problems For Them & Just Leave Peaceably On Their Own.

A2

That They Would Not Go To Court As Free Roman Citizens & Demand Justice

... And when it was day, the **Magistrates** sent the **Officers**, saying, “Let those men go!” So, the **Keeper of the Prison** reported these words to **Paul**, saying, “The **Magistrates** have sent to let **You** go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace.” ... **Acts 16:35-36**

Q

“What Was Paul’s Response To Their Offer Of Being Set Free?”

A

He Demanded Justice As A Free Roman Citizen

NOTE

We Do Not Stop Being Secular Free Born American Citizens,
Just Because We Are Also Born-Again Free Christians!

... But **Paul** said to **Them (Officers)**, “**They (Magistrates)** have beaten **Us (Paul & Silas)** openly, uncondemned **Romans**, and have thrown **Us** into prison. And now do **They** put **Us** out secretly? No indeed! Let **Them** come **Themselves** and get **Us** out!” ... **Acts 16:37**

Q

*“What Did The City Officials Do,
Once They Knew The Truth Of Their Personal Situation,
& Their Sworn Duty To Bring Justice For ALL Citizens?”*

A

**They Groveled & Pleaded With These Free Born Roman Citizens
To Leave & Not Lose Their Positions!**

... And the **Officers** told these words to the **Magistrates**, and **They (Magistrates)** were afraid when **They** heard that **They (Paul & Silas)** were **Romans**. Then **They** came and pleaded with **Them** and brought **Them** out, and asked **Them** to depart from the **City (Philippi)** ... **Acts 16:38-39**

Q

“What Do Paul & Silas Do As Free Born Roman Citizens?”

A1

**They Choose Not To Press The Issue Further As Citizens Of Rome,
In Order To Immediately Visit God’s People, The Church,
In Order To Carry Out Their 3-Part Short Plan: Report, Encourage, & Strengthen!**

... So, **They (Paul & Silas)** went out of the prison and entered the **House of Lydia**; and when **They (Paul & Silas)** had seen the **Brethren**, **They** encouraged **Them** and departed ... **Acts 16:40**

A2

**They Choose Not To Press The Issue Further As Citizens Of Rome,
In Order To Be Able To Return Peaceably In The Future
In Order To Carry Out Their 7-Part Longer Plan For God’s People, The Church:
Visit, Report, Encourage, Strengthen, Preach, Teach, & Ordain!**

Paul Revisited Philippi 2 Or 3 More Times

1st Return Macedonian Visit

... After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the Disciples to Himself, embraced Them, and departed to go to again to Macedonia. Now when He had gone over that whole Region and encouraged Them with Many Words, He came to Greece ... **Acts 20:1-2**

2nd Return Macedonian Visit

... He (Paul) came to Greece and stayed three months. And when the Jews plotted against Him as He was about to sail to Syria, He decided to Return through Macedonia. And Sopater of Berea Accompanied Him to Asia (Minor), also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia (Minor). These (Seven) Men, going ahead, waited for Us at Troas. But We sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined Them at Troas, where We stayed seven days.

Acts 20:3-6

3rd Return Macedonian Visit – Between His Two Roman Captivities In Prison

Paul Writes, ... “As I urged you when I went again into Macedonia, remain in Ephesus that You may charge some that They teach no other doctrine”... **1st Timothy 1:3**

Paul Also Writes to the Church at Philippi, ... “And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with You (Church in Philippi) All for Your Progress and Joy of Faith, that Your Rejoicing for Me may be more Abundant in Jesus Christ by My Coming to You Again!”

Philippians 1:25-26

Paul Reminds The Philippians & Us Again Today What An Honor & Privilege It Is To Be Counted Worthy To Suffer For The Sake Of The Name & Mission Of Jesus Christ Our Coming King & Lord!

... “Only Let Your Conduct Be Worthy of the Gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see You or I am absent, I may hear of Your Affairs, that You Stand Fast in One Spirit, With One Mind Striving Together for the Faith of the Gospel, and not in any way Terrified by Your Adversaries, which is to Them a Proof of Perdition, but to You of Salvation, and that from God. For to You it has been granted on Behalf of Christ, not only to Believe in Him, but also to Suffer for His Name Sake, Having the Same Conflict which You saw in Me and now hear is in Me. Philippians 1:27-30

C.S. Lewis once wrote in his book, *“The Weight of Glory”*, “A man may have to die for his country, but no man must, in an exclusive sense, live for his country. He who surrenders himself without reservation to the temporal claims of a nation, or a party, or a class, is rendering to Caesar that which, of all things, most emphatically only belongs to God, Himself!”

C.S. Lewis, also once wrote in his acclaimed series, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, in the book, *“The Last Battle”*, “I have Come Home at Last! This is My Real Country! I Belong Here! This is the Land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. The reason We loved so the Old Narnia is that sometimes it looked a little like this” ... “Come Further Up, Come Further In!”

**The Apostle Peter
Once Again Asks Us All This Morning An Important Question,
& Answers Us With Great Encouragement & Hope!**

... “Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, **CQ: ‘What manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?’** Nevertheless We, According to His Promise, Look for New Heavens and a New Earth in which Righteousness Dwells. ... **CA1:** “Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in Peace, Without Spot & Blameless; and Consider that the Longsuffering of our Lord is Salvation. Just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.” **CA2:** “You, Therefore, Beloved, since you know this beforehand, Beware lest you also Fall from Your Own Steadfastness, Being Led Away with the Error of the Wicked; but Rather Grow in the Grace & Knowledge of Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the Glory Both Now & Forever!
AMEN!”

2nd Peter 3:11-18

**“Therefore, Let Us, As God’s Chosen People,
Be Found Faithful,
By All Those Who Come After Us,
And At Our Lord’s Return In Glory,
At The Last Trumpet Sound,
& The Last Battle Commence!”**

**“Let Us Cry Out Again, Today & Tomorrow,
Like Peter, Edmund, & Lucy of Narnia,
‘All Hail Our Victorious Lord & King Aslan!’
And Like Peter, Paul, & C.S. Lewis,
‘Hail Forever To The Victorious
Lion Of The Tribe Of Judah!’”**