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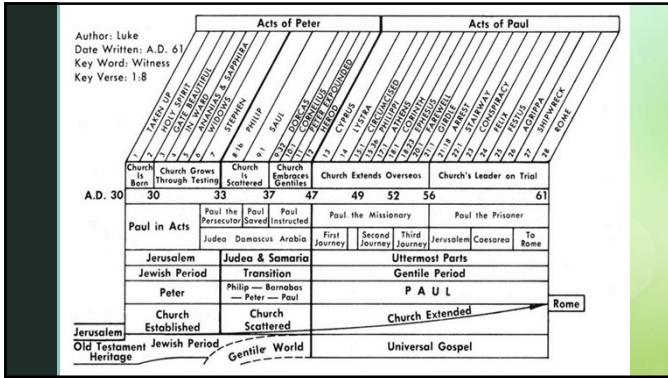
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Acts 16:16-18 <sup>16</sup> Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." <sup>18</sup> And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

- What is confusing about this demon?
- Can Satan speak truth?

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Acts 16:19-24 <sup>19</sup> But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged *them* into the marketplace to the authorities. <sup>20</sup> And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; <sup>21</sup> and they teach custom which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." <sup>22</sup> Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded *them* to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw *them* into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup> Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

- What Roman law were they breaking?

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Acts 16:25-29 <sup>25</sup> But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. <sup>27</sup> And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. <sup>28</sup> But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." <sup>29</sup> Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.

- What is the difference between hearing and listening?
- Why would the jailer move to kill himself?
- What is curious about this earthquake?

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Acts 16:30-34 <sup>30</sup> And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup> Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his *family* were baptized. <sup>34</sup> Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

- What is required for salvation?
- Who was saved in the jail?
- Why was the jailer not told to repent prior to his salvation?
- Was the jailer's salvation too easy to be valid?

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Acts 16:35-40 <sup>35</sup> And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, "Let those men go." <sup>36</sup> 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." <sup>37</sup> But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us 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." <sup>38</sup> And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. <sup>39</sup> Then they came and pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to depart from the city. <sup>40</sup> So they went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

- Why did the magistrates decide to let Paul and Silas go?
- Why did Paul demand that the magistrates come to release him and Silas?
- Why did Paul not tell them they were Roman citizens prior to the beating?
- When did Paul leave the city?
- What can we discern from verse 40?

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◀ Wrap up and Closing Prayer

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