

## Lesson IV.

## PAUL'S JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

April 26, 1903

Acts 21 : 3-12. Study vs. 1-16.

Commit to memory vs. 11, 12.

3 Now when we had discovered Cyprus, we left it on the left hand, and sailed into Syria, and landed at Tyre; for there the ship was to unlade her burden.

4 And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem.

5 And when we had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till we were out of the city: and we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed.

6 And when we had taken our leave one of another, we took ship; and they returned home again.

7 And when we had finished our course from Tyre, we came to Ptolemais, and saluted the brethren, and abode with them one day.

8 And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

9 And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

10 And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus.

11 And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

12 And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem.

**Revised Version**—1 come in sight of; 2 leaving; 3 unto; 4 having found the; 5 and these; 6 set foot in; 7 it came to pass that; 8 the; 9 on our journey; 10 with wives and children, brought us on our way; 11 kneeling down on the beach, we prayed; 12 bade each other farewell; and we went on board the ship; 13 the voyage; 14 arrived at; 15 on the morrow; 16 Omit, that were of Paul's company; 17 Now this man; 18 coming to us, and taking; 19 feet and hands.

## EXPLANATION

**Connection**—This Lesson continues Lesson I. Having bidden the elders of Ephesus a tender and touching farewell, Paul took ship from Miletus to Jerusalem. He sailed to Cos, Rhodes and Patara, on the southern coast of Asia Minor; at the last mentioned place he resumed the voyage on another ship, vs. 1, 2.

**3. When we:** Luke, the writer of The Acts, was with Paul. **Had discovered.** Luke uses a sailor's word meaning "when we had sighted." **Cyprus;** an island in the Mediterranean, now owned by Britain. **Left it on the left hand;** sailed south of it. **Syria;** a Roman province, including the whole eastern shore of the Mediterranean from Cilicia to Egypt. **Phenicia** was part of Syria and **Tyre,** famous for its fabrics and architecture, was its chief city.

**4. Having found the disciples** (Rev. Ver.). The meaning is, "having looked them up." For some reason they were hard to find. Possibly they were quite

obscure persons, little known. **Seven days.** It took the ship this time to unload. **Who said.** These disciples said. **Through the Spirit.** The Holy Spirit was guiding Paul to Jerusalem (ch. 20: 22), and now He told these disciples what would happen to him there.

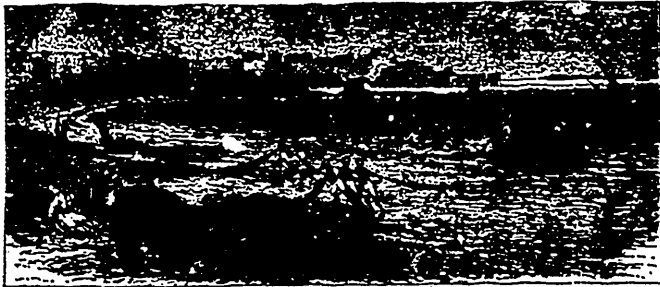
**5, 6. With wives and children;** a touching proof of the hold the gospel had got on the homes. **Kneeled down on the shore.** (Compare ch. 20: 36.) The Greek word denotes a smooth shore. Tyre had a

smooth beach for some distance on both sides.

**7. Finished our course.** The sea voyage ended at Ptolemais, which was 30 miles south of Tyre and had a fine harbor. **Saluted the brethren.** See v. 4 for Paul's custom of finding out the Christians.

**8, 9. We departed;** by land. **Caesarea;** a seaport on the Mediterranean, 70 miles from Tyre and 70 from Jerusalem. **Philip;** see chs. 6: 5, 6; 8: 5-13, 26-40. **The evangelist;** one who preaches the evangel or gospel from place to place. **Which did prophesy;** spoke forth messages received from God. It is not said that they foretold the future. They published the gospel. Being unmarried ("virgins"), they could devote their time to Christian work.

**10-12. Came down;** to the sea-coast. **Judaea;** the southern province of Palestine. **Agabus;** no doubt the same as in ch. 11: 27-30. **Paul's girdle;** the belt used to bind the long, loose robe worn in Eastern countries. **Bound his own feet and hands** (Rev. Ver.).



The City of Tyre

as a sign of what was to befall Paul at Jerusalem; **So shall the Jews . . . bind;** which came to pass (see next lesson). **Besought him not to go.** They wrongly supposed that the prophecy was intended to prevent his going on. Paul "would not be persuaded" to turn aside from what he saw to be the path of duty (ch. 20: 22, 23), and they yielded to "the will of the Lord." Some days later Paul and his companions set out for Jerusalem, where a lodging was provided for them in the house of Mnason an aged disciple, vs. 13-16.