

**BIBLE SRVEY, PT 10-NT(THE EPISTLES  
-Phil's)-"GD'S SOVEREIGN CONTROL"**

- >>>>We're in a "Bible Survey" series
- >We've covered OT/4 Gspels/ Bk of Acts
- >& now—we're taking a wk each to look  
at all the major "letters" of the NT...
- >>Bec thy're backbone of our Chr faith
- >So far--we've covered Rmns/ 1&2 Cor's  
/ Galatians/Ephesians

\* **[ENHANCED CD OR WEBSITE]** \*

\* >>Tdy—ready to move on Philippians  
**I-BACKGROUND RE: CITY OF PHIL**

A. The city of Phil was located in what is  
today NEster'n Greece—**MAP**

1. At x of AP—it had a pop of **250K**

2. Named after Philip of Macedon  
(Alex the Great's father)-**SLIDE**

3. & as Lk said (Acts A16:12)-"it was  
the chief city in tht part of Mcdonia

B. But Lk tells us smthng else very impt  
ab Philippi(A 16:12)-"a Rmn colony"

1. A rank vry few cities in REmp had

C. Finally--Philippi was also a major  
military outpost for the Rmn army

**II- BCKGROUND AB P'S MINSTRY HERE**

And  
title  
slide

map  
Ancient  
Philippi  
excavation  
coins

A. P arrived in Philippi in Acts 16 on his  
2<sup>nd</sup> miss'ry journey

map again \* B. It was 1<sup>st</sup> city in Erpe whre P prchdCh

C. IF REM:

- blank \* 1. Led Lydia to Chrst—1<sup>st</sup> blvr in Erpe  
 2. Used her home as base of oprations  
 3. Eventually, P healed a possesed girl  
 4. Whch started a riot--tht ended w/  
 the city magistrates ordering P to  
 be beaten w/rods & thrown in jail  
 5. Angel then busted open jail doors  
 6. Afr jailor saw this--P led him & all  
 his family to Christ (I GUESS SO!)

map blank \* 7. Thn mgistrates askd P to leave tw  
 IL: A GREAT CONFIRM OF B's Veracity

\* In Acts 16—Gk wrd used fr "city  
 \* "magistrates" = "PRAETORS"

\* Why is this important??

\* WELL—bec arch'ol'gy now confirms  
 ✓ tht Philipi=only Rn colony whre  
 the rulers were calld "PRAETORS"

\* ILLU: Cicero confirms: "Altho the rulers  
 are called 'duumvirs' in the other  
 colony cities, the rulers at Philippi  
 wished to be called 'praetors'."

AP: PT: *only* smeone who was *actually* ~~thre~~-like B says Luke was—wld've known this & recorded it correctly

*prchce* \*ILLUST: Wm. Ramsay—"One of the most impressive claims to the historicity of Bk of Acts is that Lk always gets titles right. How a writer handles titles quickly betrays if he is trying to construct a forgery or if he was there as an eyewitness."

\*"Evry official in Acts is fnd precisely where he ought to be—proconsuls in senatorial provinces, Asiarchs in Ephe, praetors in Philippi, etc

\*"The only reasnable cnclusion is tht the Bk of Acts must've been writtn by an eyewitness of the events—exactly as the B claims it was "

*blank* \*SALV: Pple hesitate....no basis in fact

### III-LET'S TURN TO LTR OF PHL'S ITSLF

A. Philippians—along with 3 other ltrs

- blank* \*  
 1. Ephesians's/Colossians/& Philemon  
 2. Are referd to as "The Prison Ep's"

B. EXPLAIN-aftr P left Philippi in 50 AD

1. He continued his miss journeys til

he went to Jer(A 21)-whre Jwh mob  
 tried to kill hm--& Rns arrested h m  
 2. Thn spnt 2yrs in jail in Is(A 21-26)  
 3. Thn he appealed his case to Caesar  
 & was shipped to Rome(Acts 27)...

\* 4. Where he spent 2 more yrs in jail  
 (61-62AD)awaiting trial(Acts 28)

C. It was during this imprisnmnt in Rme  
 tht P wrote all "4 of prison epistles"

D. P had maintained close personal ties  
 w/chch of Philipi during all these yrs

\* 1. In fact-of all the chrches AP started  
 \*Phil chch=the only chch tht evr  
 financially supprted his mnstry

\* 2. Phil 4:15-"Nw as U Philipians knw..  
 after I left U, not one chch shared  
 wth me in the mtrr of giving but U  
 ...for U sent me aid again & again  
 to help with my needs."

E. SO—bc of this deep love btw P & Phil's

\* { 1. Whn Phil's heard tht P was in jail  
 2. They dispatchd Epaphroditus(ch 2)  
 3. To go to Rme...see hw P was doing  
 4. & give P another monetary gift

F. & THIS is the presenting rsn fr P's ltr

\*G. It's really a (1)"thank U note" fr their gift..&(2) a "status report" on how P was doing there in jail in Rome

H. IN THIS REGARD...P says 3 thngs:

\*# 1. P: "I'm so thankful fr yur gift"

\*Phil 4:18-"I am amply supplied, hving receivd frm Epaphroditus the gift U sent."

\*# 2.P:"Gd's been in cntrol all along & evrythng tht's hppned to me has turned out for the good"

\*Phil 1:12-"Now I want U to know, brethren, tht wht has hppened to me has actually served to advance the Gospel"

## MORE ON THIS LATER

\*#3- P:"I expect tobe released soon"

\*Phil 2:23-"I hope to send Tim as soon as I see hw thngs go. & I am cnfident in Lrd tht I myself will be coming to see U shortly

IL: Acc to early chrch historians—indeed

P WAS releasd frm this 1<sup>st</sup> imprsnmnt

\*Euse-"Afttr he made his defense, the apostle was sent again upon the

mnstry of pr'chng; then he was  
brot bck to same city (Rome) a  
2<sup>nd</sup> time & sufferd martyrdom."

\*Clement-"Afttr suffrng in Rme, Pwent  
to 'the boundary of the West'  
(Spain) preaching the Gospel"

K.SUMMARIZE: P's ltr to Phil's was a ~~very~~  
prsnal note to his most prsonal chrch

1. Thanking them for their support

2. Assuring thm tht he was doing OK

\*IV- SO WHAT? \*blank

A. In Phil's, AP modeled fr us--a biblical  
worldview re: circum's of life

1. It'll change our lives

2. It'll keep us frm gettng discouragd

3. & I want all of us to see it

B. REM: P got shipped to Rome (A27) afttr  
Jwsh enemies in Israel succeeded in  
keeping him in jail for 2 yrs

C. Acts 28:16(Lk)-"When we got to Rome,  
P was allowed to live by hmslf, with a  
soldier to guard him at all times"

\*1. IN FACT--V. 20 tells us P tht was  
actually "chained" to a sldr 24/7

D. NOW--it wlda been really easy fr P



\* *back* to've hated his Jwsh enemies(A21-26)

1. Bec of thm he'd I've been in jail fr the last 2yrs—wld be fr 2yrs more

2. Bec of thm, he was shipwrecked & almost died

3. Bec of them, he'd lost all freedom to move arnd & preach Gspl

4. But(P)—"I'm not bitt'r agst thm at all

\* 5. P—"As a mattr of fact--I've got alot to thank thm for

6. Bc wh't they did to me(P says-Phil

\* 1:12)-"has actually served to ADVANCE the Gospel"—

E. HOW???? WELL—IN 2 WAYS P SAYS

F. 1<sup>st</sup> WAY-Ph 1:14-"Most of the brethren

\* have been made more cnfident in the Lrd bc of my imprisonment & have become much more bold to speak the wrd of Gd w/out fear

1."Bec I was willing to go to jail fr the Gospel," P SAYS

\* 2." Lots of Chr's have been more willing to stand up fr Gospel

3. "& this has advanced the Gspl"

\* G. 2<sup>nd</sup> WAY—REALLY EXCITING—Ph 1:13-

"It has become well known thruout the whole Praetorian Guard, & to all the rest(of the palace officials) tht my imprisonment is fr Christ."

1. P: "Bec of wht these Jwsh ldrs did..."

2. "& the way Gd sov'ly used it..."

\* blank 3."The whole PG has heard abt JC  
[STOP & ASK: "Who were Prae'n Guard?"]

H. "PRAETORIAN GUARD" was the most  
\* elite regiment in the entire Rn army

1.Established by the first 1st emperor of Rme--Caesar Augustus--in **31BC**

2.They=prsnal bodyguard of emperor

\* 3.By x of AP—thy'd become the most pwrful polit force in Rme, deposing & crowning empr's at their pleasure

best picture \* ILL: Sandra Bingham(2012 The P.Guard)

✓ "The PG became the pwr behind the throne, wth the ability to make or break an emporr, & were the most privilged grp in the Rmn military"

\* J. & P tells the Phil's tht evry single one of thm had heard the Gospel of JC

[**NOW--JUST HOW DID THIS HAPPN??**]

[**U'RE GONNA LOVE THIS!!!**]



\*K. One of the duties of the Praetorians= to guard those prisoners who were scheduled to appear bfre the emporor

\*1. WHCH MNS--one by one, fr 2 yrs  
2. Evry member of Praetorian Guard

\*Had to take a shift...

\*Being handcuffed to AP!!!

[HOW GREAT IS THAT??]

ILLT: As an "unbelieving Praetorian"...

\*Hw'd U like to be chained to AP

\*For an 8-hour shift?

AP: THIS is hw they all heard the Gospel!

\*THIS is hw--many of thm came to Ch

\*THIS is hw--mny of the emp's family heard the Gospel

\*THIS is hw-mny of emp's fmily came to Christ

\*Whch explains why P said(Phil 4:22):

\*"All the bvr's in Rme greet U, esp'ly those of Caesar's household"

[HEY—HOW AWESOME IS THIS??]

L. HERE'S THE PT: P wld NVR have had

\* the oprt to share J w/these elite troops

1. Nor (THRU THEM) with Caesar's personal family...

2. Had he not been in jail awaiting trial before the emperor

\* 3. & P GOT THRE--as result of those Jwsh enemies doing him wrong!

M. & THIS=why P wasn't bitter twds thm

\* { 1. BEC...he was able to see PAST thm  
2. & see how Gd had overruled thm  
3. & turned their evil into good fr Ch

N. Gd had taught P a mammoth sp truth

1. Namely: tht G-D is running this univ

2. & tht no mtrr WHT pple do to us

3. Gd will overrule it-& mke sure tht

His prfct plan fr our lives alwys triumphs

\* O. Rom 8:28-"Gd causes all thngs to work tgther fr good to those who lve him"

## CONCLUSION

>>>> My Chr frnds—this is how Gd wants <sup>Paul has just modeled for us how God wants you & me to look at the circumstances of our lives.</sup>

U/me to look at life

\* Thru the lens of Biblical truth

\* Like AP did

\* >>>> & whn we do... WE LEARN LIKE P DID

\* To look past wht pple do to us

>>>> Not to hate thm/despise/bitter agst

>>>> But to undrstand—tht they're just

pawns in Gd's hands—as he sover'ly  
uses thm to wrk out his perf plan fr

\*>>>>Joseph(Gn 50:20)-“U meant evil  
agst me, but Gd meant it fr good”

blank\*>>>SO—nxt time yur neighbr/ cwrker/  
relative/ BOSS...really does ya dirty  
\*Just smile at thm: “U knw—U’re just  
a little pawn in Gd’s hands”

\*”He’s running this univ--not U!”

>>>>”So “hit me with yur best shot”

>>>But U’re not gonna make me lose joy  
in my Gd’s sov’n cntrol of His univ  
AND ...OF MY LIFE!

~~\* I have God's solemn promise (Romans 8:28) —  
that He is going to take every rotten thing  
you do to me — AND override it for good  
in my life!~~