

BIBLE SRVEY, PT 14-NT(THE EPISTLES  
1/2 Thess)-“”

>>>>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...  
>So far--we've covered Rmns/ 1&2 Cor's  
/ Gal's/Eph's/Ph's/Col's/Heb's

[ENHANCED CD OR WEBSITE]

>Tdy-wanta look at 1&2Thess's-READY?  
I- HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- A. In A16--P is on his 2<sup>nd</sup> miss jour'y MAP  
1. Respndng to a vision Gd gave him  
2. P & his team cross w/Gpl frm ASIA  
(Troas-Troy)to EUROPE fr vry 1<sup>st</sup> x  
3. They begin prchnng Gspl in Philipi  
4. Many pple came to J'est'd church  
B. But evntually, they're arrested, beaten  
jailed-& thn politely thrown outa tw  
C. P left Luke behind to wrk w/yng chrch  
1. While he/Silas/ Tim move onto Thss  
D. Let's read hw thngs went in Thss-A17  
1.V. 1-Now they came to Ths'ca whre  
there was a Jewish synagogue  
ILLT: Thess has always had a sizeable

Jwsh pop frm before x of AP

\*Tht is—until 1941

\*In 1941—Nazi's took over the city & deported all 60K Jews to Auswich

\*Where they were put to death

APPL: Tdy—less than 1000 Jsh ple in city

2.V.2-“& acc to P's custom, he went to Jsh ple 1<sup>st</sup>, & fr 3 Sabaths reasoned with thm frm the Scriptures...”

3. V. 3-“Explaining & giving evidence tht the Mes had to suffer & rise again from the dead, & saying, ‘This J, whom I am proclaiming to U, IS the Messiah.’”

4. V. 4-“& some of the Jwsh pple were persuaded & joined Paul & Silas, along with a large number of Gd-fearing Gentiles, & a number of the city's leading women.”

5. V. 5-“Thn the (unblving)Jwsh pple became jealous & takng alng some wicked mn frm the mrktplace, thy formd a mob & went to Jason's house looking for Paul & Silas.”

IL:P&his team stayng at Jason's house

6. V. 6-“& whn they did not find thm,  
they dragged Jason & some other  
blvr's before the city authorities”

IL: Gk wrd fr "city officials"=POLITARCHS

\*Until 150yrsago, wrd nvr fnd outside B

\*So critcs of B usd this as a key exple  
of B's inaccuracy & unreliability

\*In fact, to this day—we've nvr found  
the term "politarch" in any Gk lit

\*BUT...in last 150yrs—archaeolg's hve  
fnd 64 ocurrences of "POLITARCH"  
on inscriptions dug outa grnd

\*Confirming--tht at x of AP—Thess  
was ruled by 5 local magistrates  
who had unique title: politarchs

APPL: So all these cnt's--B's been right &  
all the wrld's scholars been wrong!

U KNW WHAT WE SAY: "The more they  
dig out of the ground, the more the B  
proves to be right!"

7. V. 6-“ They dragged Jason & some  
othr blvr's bfore the POLITARCHS  
shouting, ‘These men who have  
turned the world upside down

have come here too, & Jason has welcomed them into his home”

8. V. 7-“& they are acting contrary to the laws of Caesar, saying tht there is anther gd, named Jesus.”

**HEY-THEY GOT THE POINT—RIGHT??**

9. V.8-“& they stirred up the crowd & the Politarchs. & afr Jason gave them a pledge, thy released him

10. V. 9-“Then the brethren immed’ly sent Paul (for his own safety) & Silas away by night to Berea.”**MAP**

**11. P’s total time in Thss = 1 mnth**  
**[BUT THE STORY DOESN’T END THERE**

- E. V. 10-“Whn P & Silas arrived in Berea, they went to the Jewish synagogue.

**ILST: SLIDE OF STEPS P PREACHED ON**

1. V. 11-“Now these Jwsh pple were more noble-minded thn the Jews in Thess, & they receivd the Word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see if wht P was saying was true.”

2. V. 12-“Thrfre, many of thm blved  
**ILLUT: B’s telling us a huge truth here**

\*Tllng us: any prsn who will examine  
the Scriptures w/an open mind

\*Tht prsn WILL end up believing tht  
JESUS IS THE MESSIAH

APPL: It's the only logical place a prsn  
CAN end up!

3.V.13-“But whn the (unblving)Jwsh  
ple in Thess found out tht the  
WOG was being preachd in Berea,  
they came there & bgan agitating  
& stirring up the crowds.

\*U get the picture—right?

\*P's Jwsh enemies in Thess hated  
him so much...

\*Tht just running him outa Thess  
wasn't good enuf for them

\*They wanted to run him outa  
everywhere!

\*So they followd him to Berea!

4.V. 14-“Thn imed'ly(again fr safety)  
the brethren sent P to Athens by  
way of the sea, while Silas & Tim  
remained in Berea.”

[OK--SO here we hve the hist'l events

## II- LETTER TO THESSALONIAN CHCH

A. Aftr P arrived in Athns alone...he spent several weeks preaching there...& then moved on to Corinth--MAP

B. The year was 51 AD

C. Soon aftrwrds(Acts 18:5)-“Silas & Tim arrived in Corinth”

D. Tim told P tht the blvr's in Thess were suffering terrible persecution fr faith

E. So P sent Tim back to Thess--to make sure their faith wasn't faltering--in the face of such heavy persecution

F. 1 Th 3:2-“So I sent Tim back to U, to strengthen & encourage U as to yur faith, tht none of U shld be shaken by these sufferings...for indeed when I was there with U, I told U in advance tht we were going to suffer prscution, just as has happened, as U well know

G. 1 Th 3:5-“Thus, I sent to find out abt yur faith; for I was afraid tht the Tempter might hve tempted U (ie, to abandon the faith) & thus our labor among U might've been in vain.”

H. V. 6-“But now, Tim has returned &

brot us the good news abt yur faith...

J. V 7-“& so, evn in our suffring, we were encouraged, fr we really live, if U stand firm in the Lord”

K. & so--**this is why** P wrote *both* ltrs to the Thess's—frm Crnth--**52AD**

1. To **commend** them fr perseverance

2. & to **encourage** thm to keep

**standing firm in the Lord**

L. 2 Thess 1:3-“We thank Gd fr U...& boast among Gd's churches abt yur prseverance & faith, in spite of the persecutions & trials U are enduring”

1.2:15-“Thrfre, **stand firm & hold** to the truths U were taught by us, whether in person or by letter.”

3. 3:3-“Fr the Lrd is faithful, & He will strengthen & protect U.”

### **III- SO WHAT?**

A.1 Ths 2:2(P)-“Aftr we'd already sufferd & been mistreated in Philipi, as U knw **REM: arrested, beaten, jailed, thrwn outa** we were *still* bold to speak the Wrd of Gd to U **amid strong opposition...**”

B. 2:14-“Fr yur own cntrymn drove us

out (of Thess) & tried to keep us frm speakng to the Gentiles tht they might be saved”

- C. 3:4-“Fr, in fact, when we were there w/U (in Thess), we kept telling U tht we would be persecuted, just as it has happened to U, as U well know”
- D. Phil 1:29(P)-“For it has been granted to us on Christ’s behalf, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake”
- E. **J Himself said** (Jn 15:20)-“Rem what I said to U: ‘A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will persecute U (if U stand up for Me!)...& these things they will do to U fr My sake, bec they do not know the One who sent Me””
- F. Paul makes it **crystal clear**...that...
1. IF **WE** STAND UP FOR CHRIST...
  2. **ANYWHERE...ANYTIME...ANYHOW**
  3. **WE’RE GONNA** BE PERSECUTED...
- \*It MAY BE **VERBALLY/PHYSICALLY**  
**EMOTIONALLY/EVEN VIOLENTLY**  
 \*BUT WE’RE **GONNA** PAY A PRICE!



#### 4. NOT BEC OF WHO WE ARE

\*BUT BEC OF WHO JESUS IS

5. P: "We need to *know this* going in"

6. "& we need to expect nothng diff

G. True of Thess's—but true to AP too!

#### H. On his 1<sup>st</sup> miss journey...

1. P was abused in Psidian Antioch

2. Had his life threatened in Iconium

3. Stoned & left for dead in Lystra

#### J. SO FAR--on his 2<sup>nd</sup> miss journey...

1. Been beaten & imprisned in Philipi

2. Been run outa twn in Thess & Berea  
by mobs who wanted to kill him

3. Been laughed outa twn in Athens

#### K. & it's gonna get worse—latr P writes

L. 2 Cr 11:23—"I've been beaten times  
w/out number, frequently in prison,  
often in danger of death."

1. V. 24—"Five times from the Jews I  
received 39 lashes"

ILLT: Seen Passion—imag'ne P's back??

2. V. 25—"Three times I was beaten  
with rods(A 16 in Philippi); once I  
was stoned(A 14 in Lystra); three

times I was shipwrecked (A27); a  
nite& a day I've spent in the deep;

M. Yet despite all this--P kept going!

N. QUESTION = "WHY?"

O. A=P blieved smethng so completely

2. That it drove him to a level of  
commitment world rarely seen

3. Blved tht—apart frm pers faith  
faith JC--no one will evr hve

etr life or see the shores of hvn

4.BC--this=wht B teaches w/out equiv

P. Jn 3:36-"Whoever believes in the Son(JC)  
has eter life, but whoever rejects the  
Son will not see eter life"

Q. Jn 14:6-"I am the Way, Truth & the  
Life--NO ONE comes to the Father  
(eter life/heaven) except thru Me"

R. 1 Jn 5:11-"& this is the record--tht Gd  
has given us eter life, and this life is  
in His Son (JC). He who has the Son  
has eter life; he who does not have  
the Son of Gd does not have eter life"

S. Acts 4:12-"Salv is fnd in no one else,  
fr there is no other name under hvn,  
(except J's)by whch we can be saved"

**T. P knew** that pple are hopelessly lost  
w/out JC (“no othr name undr hvn”)

1. Whch is WHY he was so “driven” to  
keep telling pple ab JC

2. Evn if it brot the mst heinous &  
brutal treatment imaginable on him

**[DO WE ALL SEE THIS???? GOOD!!]**

**U. Bec**—the only way...we as F’sOC...

1. Are gna be wllng to live lke P lived

3. Is if we utterly blve wht P blieved

**V. REM:** Fr Satn to get us to nvr share J

1. He doesn’t hve to convince us tht J  
is not A WAY to heaven

2. He just needs to convince us tht J  
is not THE ONLY way to heaven

**W.** But B says J=only way/so who gna blv?

**CONCLUSION**

>2 T 1:8-“Therefore, do not be ashamed  
of the testimony of our Lrd...but join  
with me in suffering fr the Gospel”

My hrt breaks fr us to tke P’s wrds ser’sly

>We can study B/ mem Scrip/ pray & fast

\*But if all of this doesn’t result ...

\*In our being outspken witnesses fr J

\*Thn we missed the WHOLE POINT!!