

Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

>

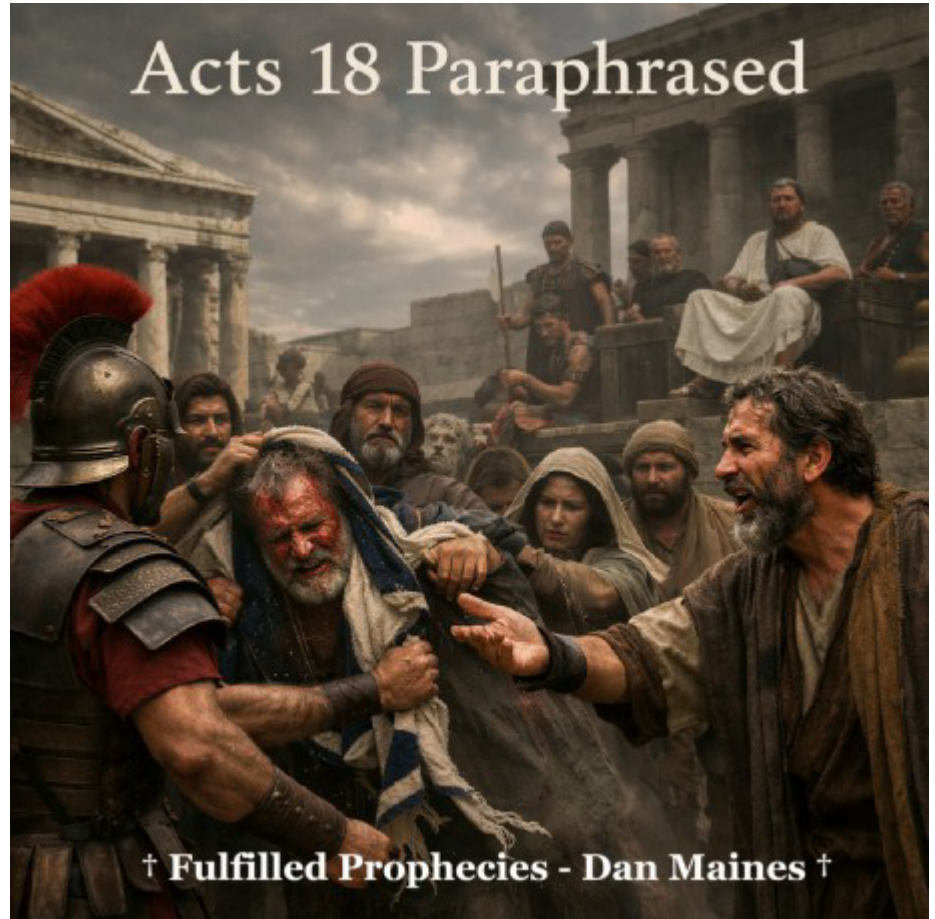
[Other](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

Acts 18 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Acts 18 Paraphrased

Introduction

† This chapter shows Paul entering Corinth and continuing the spread of the gospel among Jews and Gentiles

† It shows how God provided fellow workers, protection, and open doors in the middle of opposition

† It also shows that Christ's message kept moving forward even when many in Israel resisted it

Acts 18:1

After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

† Corinth was a major city, full of trade, idolatry, and immorality, yet it became another place where the gospel took root

† Paul kept moving forward after Athens, showing that rejection or mixed results never stopped the mission

† The kingdom was spreading into the nations just as the prophets said it would (Isaiah 49:6)

Acts 18:2

There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them.

† God used political events and displacement to bring the right people together for the work

† Aquila and Priscilla became faithful laborers, and this meeting wasn't accidental, it was providential

† The Lord often provides support for His servants through ordinary circumstances that seem unrelated at first

Acts 18:3

Because he was in the same trade, he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.

† Paul was willing to work with his hands while preaching the gospel, showing humility and endurance

† He didn't depend on wealth, comfort, or status to do the Lord's work

† This also shows how ministry and ordinary labor can stand side by side without conflict (1 Thessalonians 2:9)

Acts 18:4

And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

† Paul continued going to the synagogue first because the message had to go to the Jew first, and then to the Greek

(Romans 1:16)

† He reasoned from the Scriptures, showing that faith wasn't blind emotion but truth grounded in God's word

† Even at this stage, Greeks were already hearing and responding, showing the widening reach of the gospel

Acts 18:5

But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

† Paul's central message never changed, Jesus was the Christ promised in the Law and the Prophets

† Once support arrived, he was able to focus even more fully on preaching and teaching

† This verse keeps the chapter centered on fulfillment, because the issue was whether Jesus fulfilled what Israel had been given

Acts 18:6

But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.

† This was a covenant warning, not a casual statement, because they were accountable for rejecting the truth set before them (Ezekiel 33:4)

† Shaking out his garments showed separation from their guilt in rejecting the message

† The move to the Gentiles wasn't a failure of God's plan, it was part of its fulfillment from the beginning

Acts 18:7

Then he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next to the synagogue.

† The gospel moved right next door, showing that opposition couldn't block what God intended to do

† God immediately provided another place for the message to continue

† Even when one door closed, another was already open

Acts 18:8

Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized.

† Even with synagogue resistance, the leader of the synagogue himself believed, showing the power of the truth

† Whole households coming to faith shows the broad effect of the gospel in daily life

† Belief and baptism continued marking entrance into the covenant community under Christ

Acts 18:9

And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent.

† Even Paul needed encouragement, which shows that bold servants still face real fear

† Christ's answer to fear was not retreat, but continued speech

† The command to keep speaking shows how important the proclamation of the gospel was in that generation

Acts 18:10

for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.

† The Lord's presence was Paul's confidence, not his own strength

† God already had people in Corinth prepared to receive the message

† This shows divine purpose behind evangelism, because the

Lord knew those who were His before Paul reached them

Acts 18:11

And he settled there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

† Paul didn't only evangelize, he stayed to teach and establish believers in the faith

† A year and a half in Corinth shows how important grounding the church was

† Strong churches are built through sustained teaching, not quick excitement

Acts 18:12

But while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat,

† Opposition followed Paul again, just as Jesus said it would (John 15:20)

† The united resistance against Paul shows how serious the rejection had become

† Yet even this hostile move would be used by God to protect the progress of the gospel

Acts 18:13

saying, This man persuades men to worship God contrary to the law.

† Their charge treated fulfillment as if it were rebellion

† They couldn't see that the law pointed to Christ and found its goal in Him (Matthew 5:17)

† This same blindness often happens when tradition is placed above what Scripture actually says

Acts 18:14

But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, If it were a matter of wrong or of vicious crime, O Jews, it

would be reasonable for me to put up with you;

† Before Paul even answered, God moved the ruler to cut through the accusation

† Gallio saw that this wasn't a civil crime but a religious dispute

† The Lord's promise of protection was already unfolding

Acts 18:15

but if there are questions about words and names and your own law, look after it yourselves, I am unwilling to be a judge of these matters.

† Gallio treated the issue as an internal dispute within Judaism

† This gave the gospel room to continue spreading under Roman oversight

† God used secular authority to shield His servant without Paul needing to defend himself first

Acts 18:16

And he drove them away from the judgment seat.

† Their public attempt to silence Paul failed

† The judgment seat that they hoped would condemn him became the place where their case collapsed

† God often turns the enemy's plan back on itself

Acts 18:17

And they all took hold of Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and began beating him in front of the judgment seat. But Gallio was not concerned about any of these things.

† This scene shows the confusion and disorder that erupts when truth is rejected

† Sosthenes may be the same man later mentioned with Paul, which would show another remarkable turn of grace (1 Corinthians 1:1)

† What looked like chaos on the surface still remained under God's sovereign hand

Acts 18:18

Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchrea he had his hair cut, for he was keeping a vow.

† Paul didn't rush away in panic, he remained many days longer after the failed accusation

† Priscilla and Aquila continued with him, showing the value of faithful companions in ministry

† The vow reflects Paul's Jewish background, but not bondage to the old system, because the gospel message remained centered in Christ

Acts 18:19

They came to Ephesus, and he left them there. Now he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

† Again Paul went first to the synagogue, staying consistent in his pattern

† Ephesus would become another major place of teaching and gospel influence

† He kept reasoning with the Jews because the Scriptures they possessed testified about Christ

Acts 18:20

When they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent,

† Paul didn't let even good opportunities override the direction he believed he needed to follow

† A servant of God must be led by purpose, not just by demand

† This reminds us that saying no can also be part of obedience

Acts 18:21

but taking leave of them and saying, I will return to you again if God wills, he set sail from Ephesus.

† Paul submitted his plans to God's will, showing humility and dependence

† He made plans, but he held them with open hands

† This is the right pattern for believers, to live actively but always under the Lord's will (James 4:15)

Acts 18:22

When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and went down to Antioch.

† Paul stayed connected to the wider church, not isolated from other believers

† Antioch remained an important home base in the spread of the gospel

† The work across cities and regions was still one united mission under Christ

Acts 18:23

And having spent some time there, he left and passed successively through the Galatian region and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

† Strengthening disciples is just as necessary as making disciples

† The church needed ongoing teaching, encouragement, and correction

† Paul wasn't content with initial belief alone, he wanted believers firmly established

Acts 18:24

Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus, and he was mighty in the Scriptures.

† God raised up more than one gifted teacher, showing that the work didn't depend on Paul alone

† Apollos was eloquent, but more importantly, he was mighty in the Scriptures

† Alexandria was known for learning, and now that learning was being brought into service for Christ

Acts 18:25

This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John;

† Apollos had real knowledge and zeal, yet his understanding was still incomplete

† Sincerity is good, but believers still need fuller instruction when light increases

† John's baptism belonged to the preparatory stage, and Apollos needed to understand what had now been fulfilled in Christ

Acts 18:26

and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

† They corrected him privately and carefully, which is a model of wisdom and humility

† Even a gifted teacher needed further teaching, and that isn't weakness, it's growth

† Truth must be sharpened, and faithful believers help one another become more accurate

Acts 18:27

And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him, and when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace,

† The brethren recognized his usefulness and supported his next step

† Apollos became a great help to believers, showing the fruit of sound correction

† Those in Christ had believed through grace, keeping salvation rooted in God's work, not man's merit

Acts 18:28

for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

† The Scriptures were the authority, and Apollos used them to prove that Jesus was the Christ

† Public refutation mattered because false readings of Scripture had to be answered openly

† This chapter closes the same way it has moved all along, with fulfillment in Christ standing at the center

Historical References

† Suetonius mentions the expulsion of Jews from Rome under Claudius, which fits the setting behind Aquila and Priscilla coming from Italy

† Seneca refers to Gallio, helping confirm his historical place as proconsul in Achaia

† Eusebius discusses the growth and spread of the early church in regions connected to Paul's journeys

† Clement of Alexandria mentions Apollos among early Christian teachers known for learning and usefulness

How It Applies To Us Today

† God still provides the right people at the right time for His work

† Opposition doesn't stop the truth, it often opens the next door

† We need both zeal and accuracy if we're going to handle Scripture rightly

† Correction should be done with humility, patience, and love

† The message must remain centered on the truth that Jesus is

the Christ

Q & A Appendix

Q: Why did Paul go first to the synagogue so often?

A: Because the message was to go to the Jew first, and then to the Greek, and because the Jews had the Scriptures that pointed to Christ (Romans 1:16).

Q: Why did Paul say, Your blood be on your own heads?

A: He was declaring their responsibility for rejecting the truth after it had been clearly preached to them (Ezekiel 33:4).

Q: Why was Gallio important in this chapter?

A: His refusal to treat the gospel as a punishable crime gave Paul protection and allowed the message to keep spreading.

Q: What do we learn from Apollos?

A: We learn that a man can be gifted, sincere, and bold, and still need more accurate teaching.

Q: What is the main point running through Acts 18?

A: The main point is that Jesus is the Christ, and God's purpose kept advancing through preaching, teaching, fellowship, and correction.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

© Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.

Source Index

† Acts 18

† Suetonius, Lives of the Caesars

† Seneca, Epistles

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

[Share on Facebook](#)

Links

Facebook Link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.