

Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

>

[Other](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

Acts 20 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Acts 20 Paraphrased

Introduction

† This chapter shows Paul's final journey and warning before judgment fell on that generation

† It reveals leadership responsibility, guarding the church, and finishing the mission

† It shows urgency because the Old Covenant age was about to pass away (Hebrews 8:13)

Acts 20:1

After the uproar ended, Paul called the disciples, encouraged them, said goodbye, and left for Macedonia

† Paul strengthens believers before leaving, showing real pastoral care (Acts 14:22)

† The mission keeps moving, it's not tied to one location

† This shows urgency as time was short

Acts 20:2

He traveled through those regions, giving much encouragement, and came to Greece

† Encouragement builds endurance in the faith (Romans 15:4)

† Teaching was constant, not occasional

† The gospel kept spreading outward

Acts 20:3

He stayed three months, but when a plot formed against him, he chose to return through Macedonia

† Opposition followed Paul everywhere (Acts 17:5)

† He used wisdom, not recklessness

† God guided his steps through danger

Acts 20:4

Several men traveled with him, Sopater, Aristarchus, Secundus, Gaius, Timothy, Tychicus, and Trophimus

† This shows unity between Jews and Gentiles (Ephesians 2:14)

† Leadership was being developed

† The church was expanding beyond Israel

Acts 20:5

These went ahead and waited for us at Troas

† The mission involved coordination and teamwork

† Luke is present, showing eyewitness account

† The church operated with order

Acts 20:6

After the days of Unleavened Bread, we sailed from Philippi and came to Troas, staying seven days

† Jewish feast timing shows the Old Covenant still standing but fading

† The apostles moved within that transition period

† Fellowship time was intentional

Acts 20:7

On the first day of the week, we gathered to break bread, and Paul spoke until midnight

† The church met on the first day, centered on resurrection

† Teaching was a priority

† Paul used every moment knowing his departure was near

Acts 20:8

There were many lamps in the upper room

† A real gathering, not symbolic

† Light represents truth in contrast to darkness

† The setting was simple and humble

Acts 20:9

A young man named Eutychus fell asleep and fell from the third floor and was taken up dead

† Human weakness is shown clearly

† Long teaching required endurance

† This sets up God's power to be shown

Acts 20:10

Paul went down, embraced him, and said his life is in him

† God restores life through His servant (Acts 9:40)

† This mirrors earlier prophets (1 Kings 17:21)

† It confirms Paul's authority

Acts 20:11

He went back up, broke bread, ate, and continued speaking until morning

- † Fellowship continued after the miracle
- † Teaching remained central
- † The church focused on growth

Acts 20:12

They brought the boy home alive and were greatly comforted

- † God's power brings encouragement
- † Faith was strengthened
- † Life overcame death

Acts 20:13

We went ahead to the ship while Paul traveled by land

- † Paul sometimes separated for the mission
- † Flexibility marked his work
- † The mission kept moving

Acts 20:14

We took him on board and came to Mitylene

- † The journey continues steadily
- † The gospel spreads across regions
- † The work doesn't stop

Acts 20:15

We sailed and came to Chios, then Samos, then Miletus

- † Real locations confirm historical truth
- † This is real history, not symbolism
- † The gospel moved physically through the world

Acts 20:16

Paul hurried to reach Jerusalem by Pentecost

- † He knew time was short (Acts 21:13)
- † Pentecost connects to covenant fulfillment
- † Urgency defined his mission

Acts 20:17

From Miletus he called the elders of Ephesus

- † Church leadership was established

- † Elders had responsibility
- † Paul prepares them for what's coming

Acts 20:18

You know how I lived among you the whole time

- † Paul points to his life as an example (1 Corinthians 11:1)
- † Leadership must be lived, not just spoken
- † Integrity matters

Acts 20:19

Serving with humility, tears, and trials

- † Ministry includes suffering
- † True service isn't easy
- † Opposition was constant

Acts 20:20

I didn't hold back anything helpful, teaching publicly and house to house

- † The full truth was taught
- † Teaching was both public and personal
- † Nothing was hidden

Acts 20:21

Testifying to Jews and Greeks about repentance and faith in Jesus

- † The message was the same for all
- † Repentance and faith are central
- † No partial gospel

Acts 20:22

I go to Jerusalem, bound in spirit, not knowing what will happen

- † Paul follows the Spirit fully
- † Obedience over comfort
- † Trust in God

Acts 20:23

The Spirit testifies that chains await me

- † Suffering was expected
- † The Spirit prepares, not removes hardship
- † Faith includes endurance

Acts 20:24

I don't consider my life valuable, only finishing the mission

- † Finishing the course matters most (2 Timothy 4:7)
- † Eternal focus defines true faith
- † This is real discipleship

Acts 20:25

You will not see me again

- † This is a final farewell
- † The kingdom had already come (Matthew 12:28)
- † Paul knew the time

Acts 20:26

I am innocent of all men's blood

- † He fulfilled his responsibility (Ezekiel 33:6)
- † He warned completely
- † Accountability matters

Acts 20:27

I declared the whole purpose of God

- † Nothing was withheld
- † Truth must be complete
- † Partial teaching is error

Acts 20:28

Guard yourselves and the flock, shepherd the church bought with His blood

- † Leaders are accountable to God
- † The church belongs to Christ
- † Shepherding requires vigilance

Acts 20:29

Savage wolves will come in and not spare the flock

- † False teachers were expected (Matthew 7:15)
- † Danger comes from within
- † Truth must be protected

Acts 20:30

Men will arise speaking twisted things

- † Corruption starts inside
- † Truth gets distorted
- † This was already happening

Acts 20:31

Be alert, I warned you for three years with tears

- † Constant warning was needed
- † Paul deeply cared
- † This was serious

Acts 20:32

I entrust you to God and His word which builds you up

- † God's word sustains believers
- † The inheritance is already given (Ephesians 1:11)
- † Grace builds and secures

Acts 20:33

I didn't desire anyone's money or possessions

- † Paul wasn't motivated by greed
- † True ministry isn't about gain
- † Integrity matters

Acts 20:34

I worked with my own hands

- † Paul supported himself
- † He modeled responsibility
- † Ministry wasn't for profit

Acts 20:35

It is more blessed to give than to receive

- † Giving reflects Christ

- † Helping the weak matters
- † True blessing is in giving

Acts 20:36

He knelt and prayed with them

- † Prayer was central
- † Dependence on God
- † Leadership ends in humility

Acts 20:37

They wept and embraced him

- † Deep love among believers
- † True fellowship
- † This was personal

Acts 20:38

They grieved because they wouldn't see him again

- † Separation was painful
- † Paul left a lasting impact
- † The mission continues

Historical References

- † Josephus records unrest and false teachers before Jerusalem's fall, Antiquities Book 20
- † Irenaeus describes leadership guarding truth, Against Heresies
- † Eusebius documents early church structure, Ecclesiastical History
- † Clement of Alexandria speaks on discipline and teaching, Stromata

How it applies to us today

- † We must guard truth just like they were told
- † We must stay rooted in God's word
- † We must live with urgency
- † We must serve with humility

† We must reject false teaching

Q & A Appendix

Q: Why did Paul warn about false teachers?

A: Because deception was already rising (Acts 20:29-30)

Q: What is the inheritance?

A: Covenant blessings fulfilled in Christ (Ephesians 1:11)

Q: Why was Paul urgent?

A: Because that age was ending (Hebrews 8:13)

Q: What does giving show?

A: Christ's nature (Acts 20:35)

Q: Why is leadership serious?

A: They answer to God (Acts 20:28)

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

© Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.

Source Index

† Acts 20

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† 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.