

Acts Series

Lesson #114

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Dean Bible Ministries

[www.deanbible.org](http://www.deanbible.org)

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# The Acts of the Apostles “To the end of the earth” Acts 1:8

## Can Christians Be Demon Possessed? The Simple Gospel Acts 16:21–40





0 25 50 100 mi.  
0 40 80 160 km

**Acts 16:16, “Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.”**



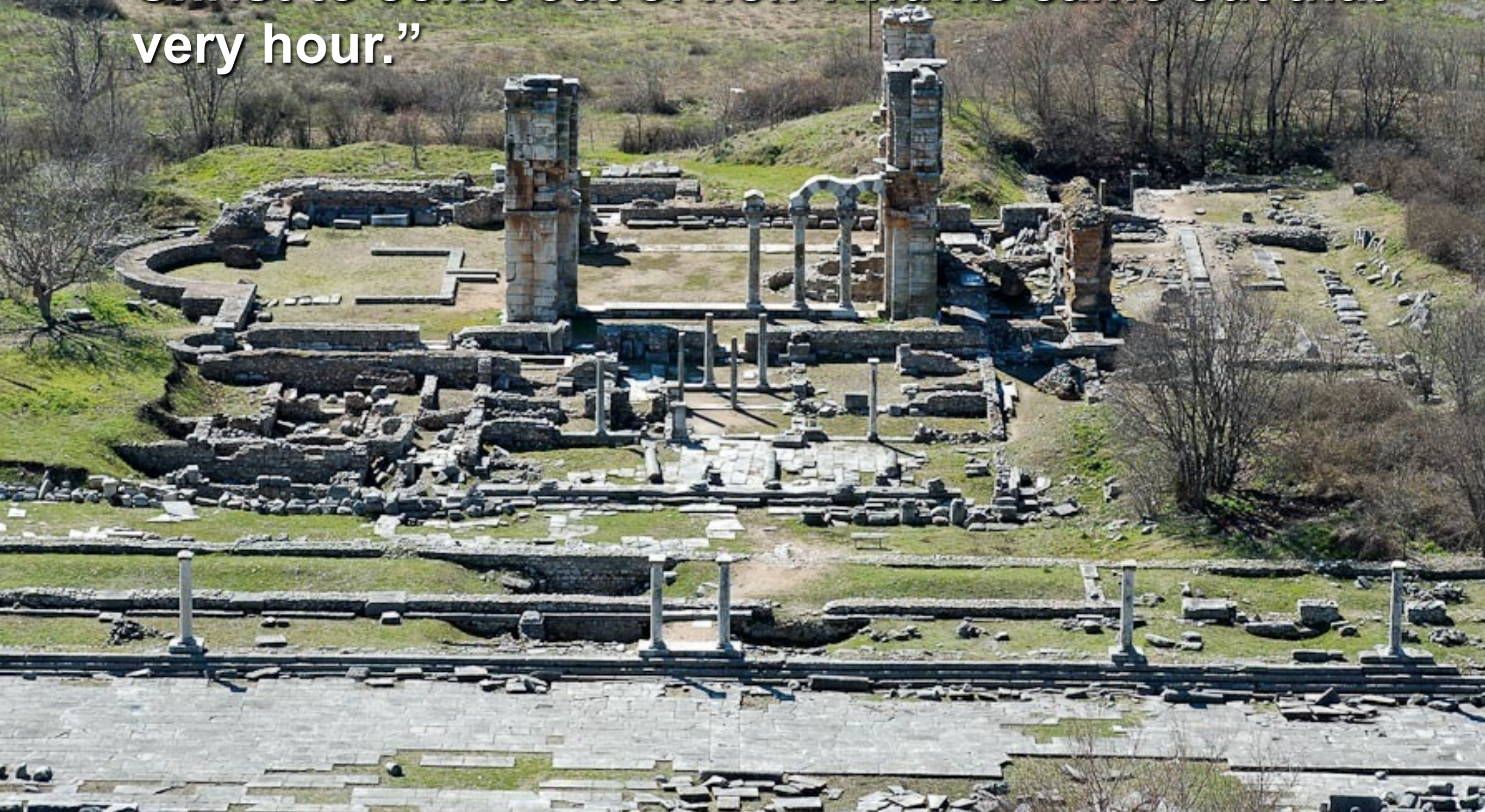
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**lit. “having [*echo*] a spirit, a *puthonos*”**

**Acts 16:17, “This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, ‘These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.’ ”**



**Acts 16:18, “And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, ‘I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.’ And he came out that very hour.”**

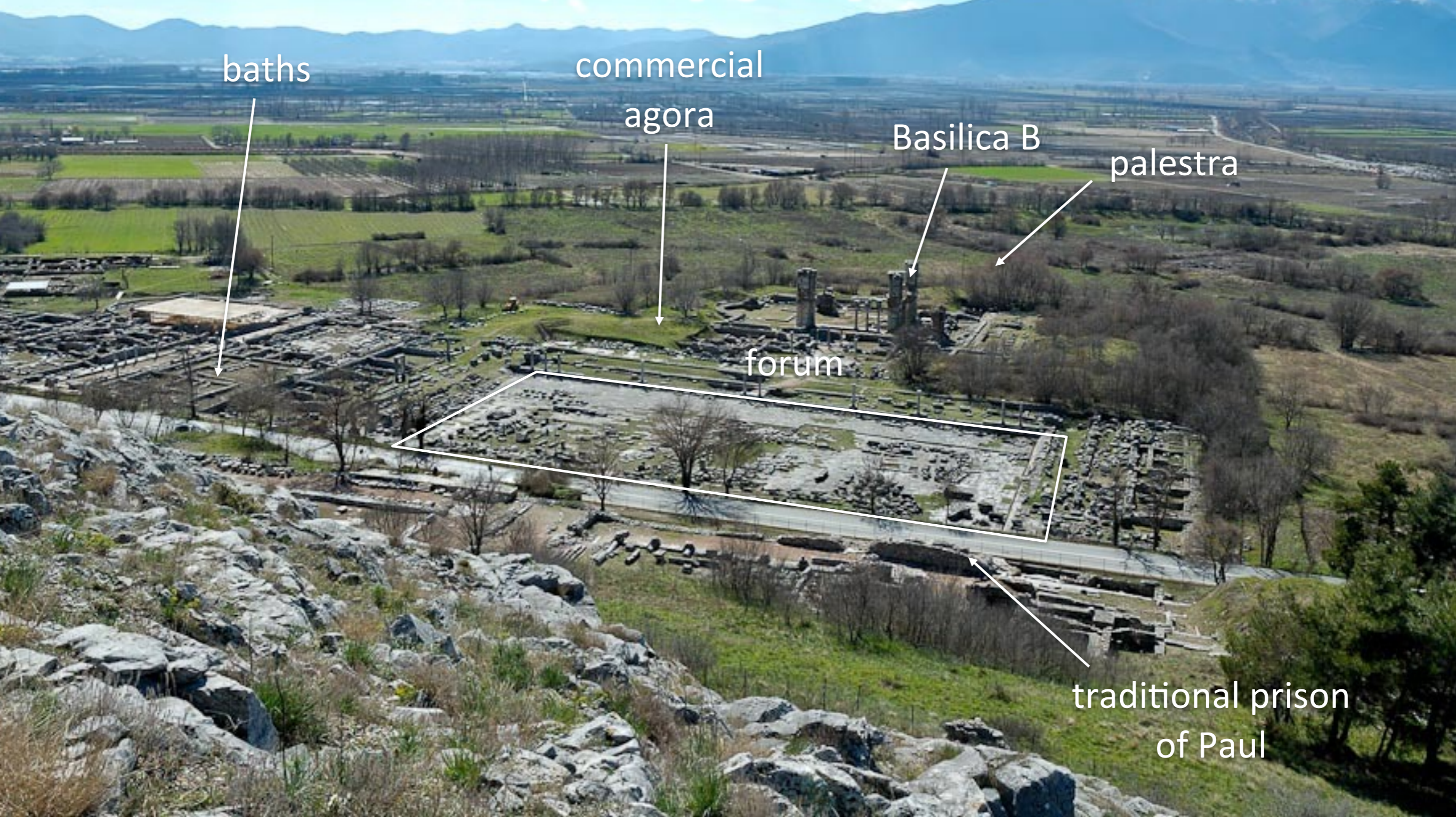


**Acts 16:19, “But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged *them* into the marketplace to the authorities.”**





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baths

commercial

agora

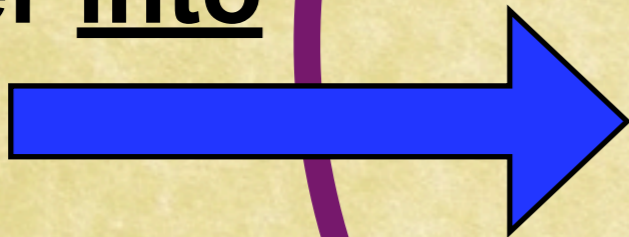
Basilica B

palestra

forum

traditional prison  
of Paul

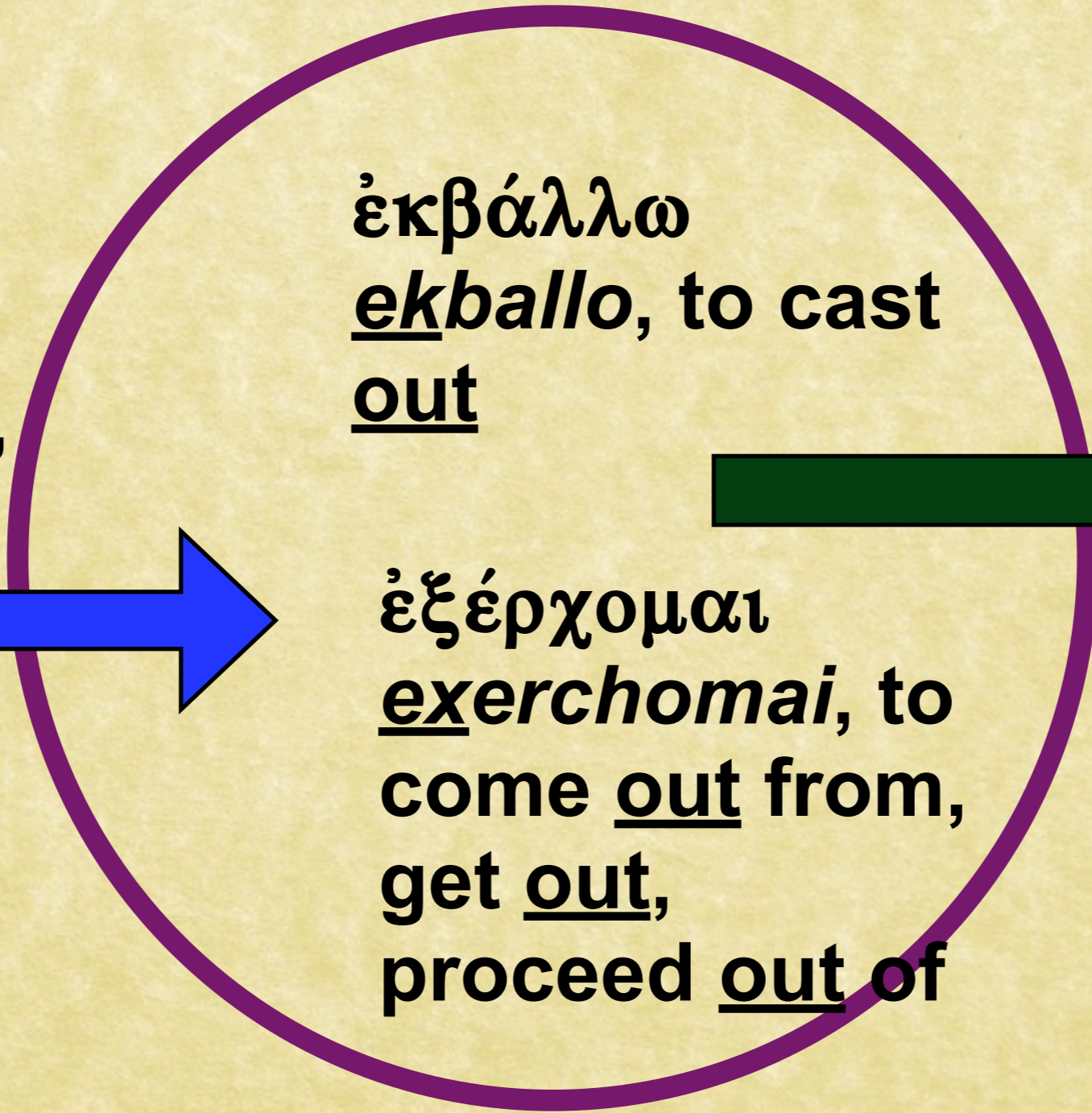
εἰσέρχομαι  
*eiserchomai*,  
to enter into



ἐκβάλλω  
*ekballo*, to cast  
out



ἐξέρχομαι  
*exerchomai*, to  
come out from,  
get out,  
proceed out of



# **How Can We Know if a Person is Demon Possessed?**

- 1. Rabbi Huna (d. A.D. 297) delineated four characteristics: “walking about at night, spending the night on a grave, tearing one’s clothes, and destroying what one is given.” These four could describe tens of thousands of teenagers on any given Halloween night.**

**2. So-called evidence that someone is demon possessed.**

- a) to think oneself possessed,**
- b) to lead a wicked life,**
- c) to be persistently ill, falling into heavy sleep and vomiting unusual objects (either natural objects: toads, serpents, worms, iron, stones, etc.; or artificial objects: nails, pins, etc.),**
- d) to blaspheme,**
- e) to make a pact with the Devil,**
- f) to be troubled with spirits,**
- g) to show a frightening and horrible countenance,**
- h) to be tired of living,**
- i) to be uncontrollable and violent,**
- j) to make sounds and movements like an animal.**

### **3. Kurt Koch:**

**cursing, grinding teeth, suicide, falling into a trance.**

**Koch stated that possessing demons “emit a scornful laugh if he hears someone talking about the cross of Christ or the blood of Jesus,” and that the person possessed will display “evil and hateful expressions especially if spiritual things are talked about.”**

**“Can a Christian be demonized? For a number of years I questioned this, but now I am convinced it can occur. If a ‘ground of entrance’ has been granted the power of darkness (such as trafficking in the occult, a continual unforgiving spirit, a habitual state of carnality, etc.) the demon(s) sees this as a green light – okay to proceed ...**



**“I have worked personally with troubled, anguished Christians for many years. On a few occasions I have assisted in the painful process of delivering them of demons ... while present within the body (perhaps in the region of the soul) that evil force can wreck havoc within the life.”**

**~Chuck Swindoll**

**1. *The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.***

**Every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is indwelt by the Holy Spirit from the instant of salvation (1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19).**

**1 Corinthians 3:16, “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?”**

**1 Corinthians 6:19, “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”**

**naos**; only the inner sanctum, the holiest, most sanctified location

***hierón***; includes not only the building, but the external grounds and courtyards

**1 John 4:4, “Greater is He that is in you, then he that is in the world.”**

## **2. The Empty House Illustration.**

**Matt. 12:28, “But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.**

**Matt. 12:29, “Or how can one enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.”**

## **2. The Empty House Illustration.**

**Matt. 12:43, “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none.**

**Matt. 12:44, “Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds *it* empty, swept, and put in order.**

**Matt. 12:45, “Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”**

### **3. High Priestly Intercession of Christ.**

**John 17:15, “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.”**

**The preposition ἐκ [ek] here is used to indicate severance or separation. Whatever else our Lord intended, this would exclude the invasion of a child of God's body by unholy demons. Since we know the Father has heard and is fulfilling Christ's request, this must at least include protection of all believers, obedient and disobedient, from demon possession.**



#### 4. Kept From Harm.

1 John 5:18, “We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

1 John 5:19, “We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway* of the wicked one.”

**ἅπτω *haptō***

**Verb pres mid indic 3 sing**

**“to touch, hold, grasp; to light, ignite”**

## 5. Protected From the Evil One.

2 Thessalonians 3:3, “the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.”

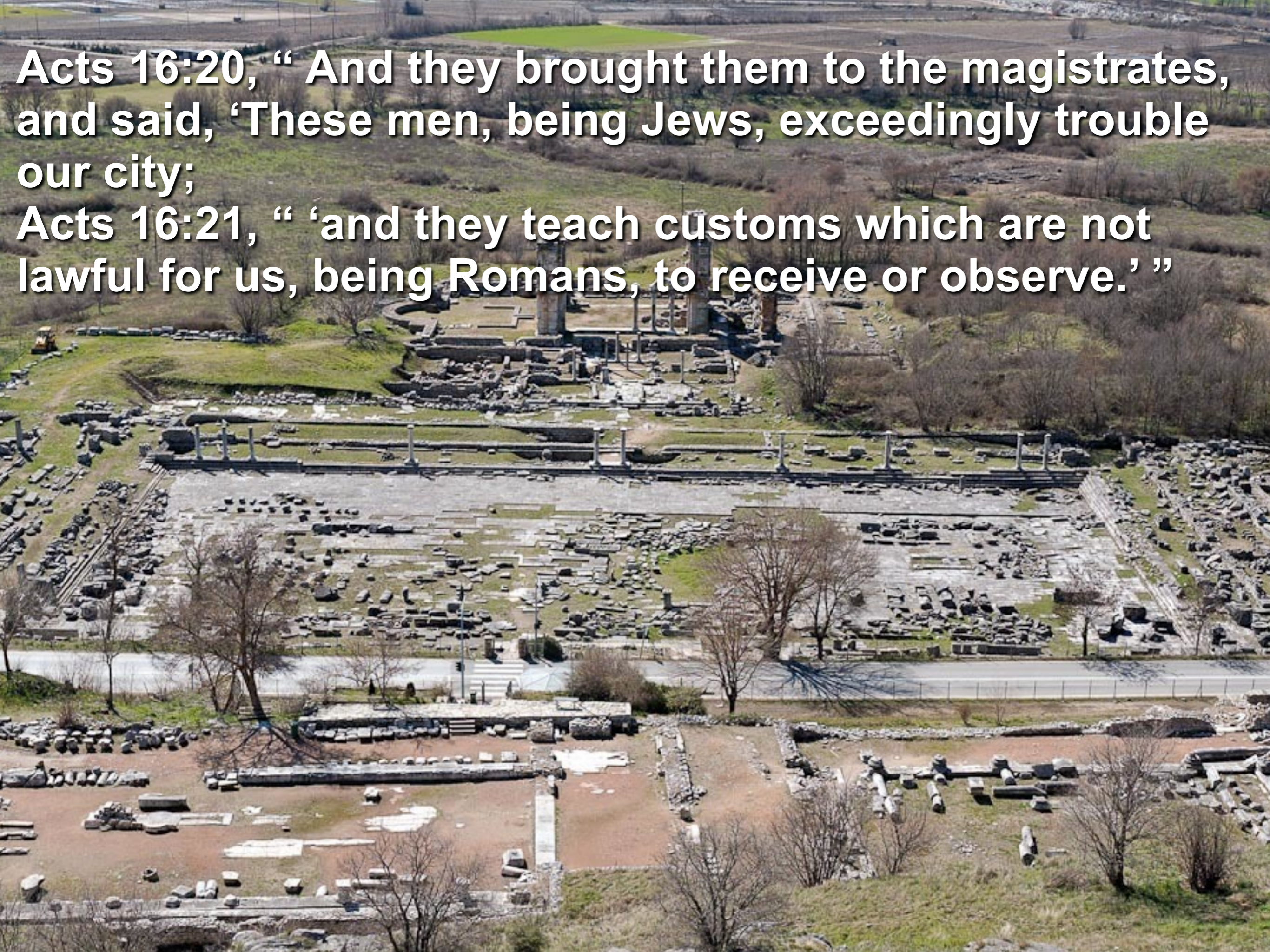
**ἀπό** *apo* **from, by, since**

## **6. Argument From Sufficiency and Silence.**

**2 Peter 1:3, “as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,**

**2 Peter 1:4, “by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.”**

**Acts 16:20, “ And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, ‘These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city;  
Acts 16:21, “ ‘and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe.’ ”**



**Acts 16:22, “Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods.**

**Acts 16:23, “And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.”**

commercial  
road



forum



bema

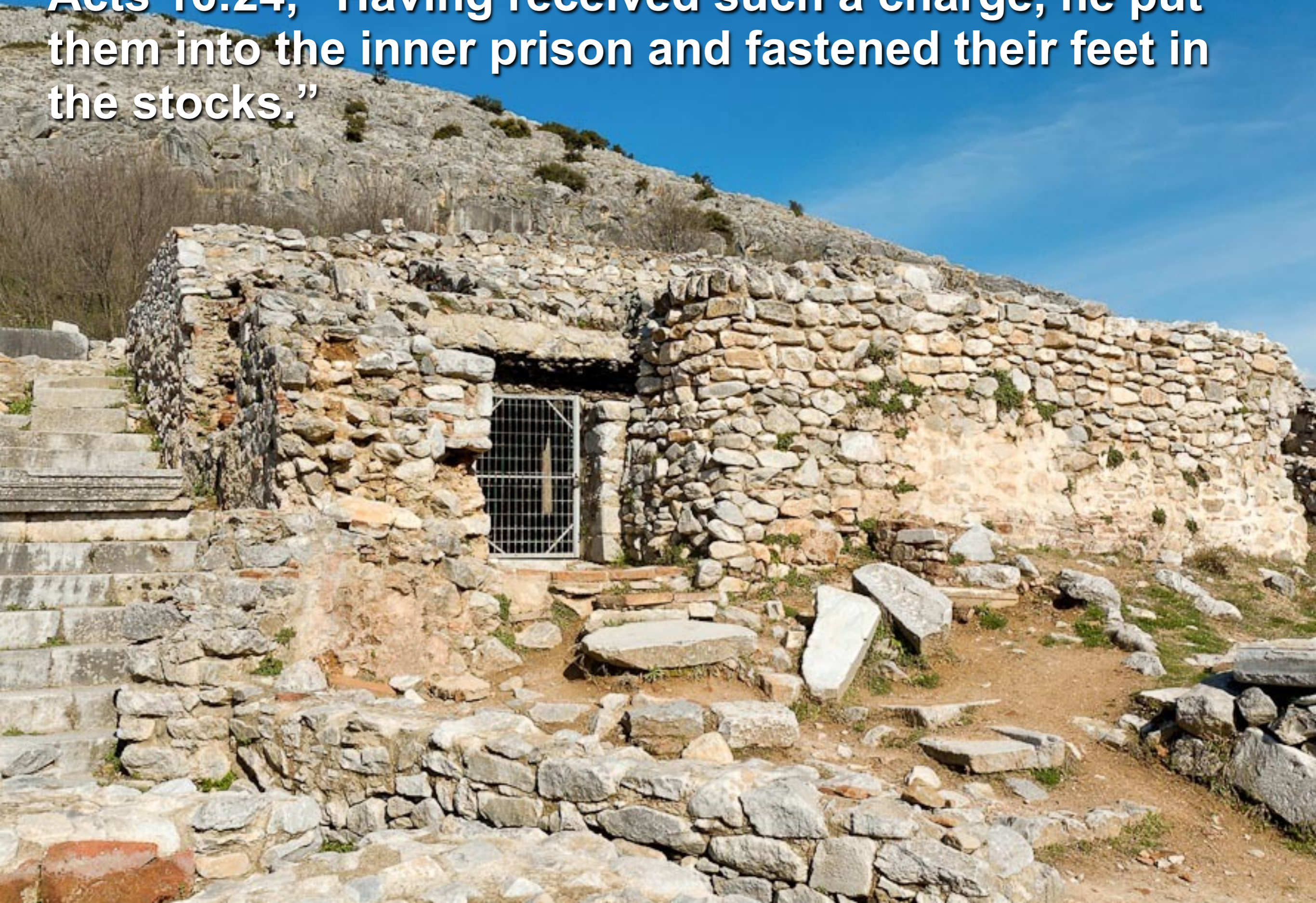


Basilica A

traditional prison  
of Paul

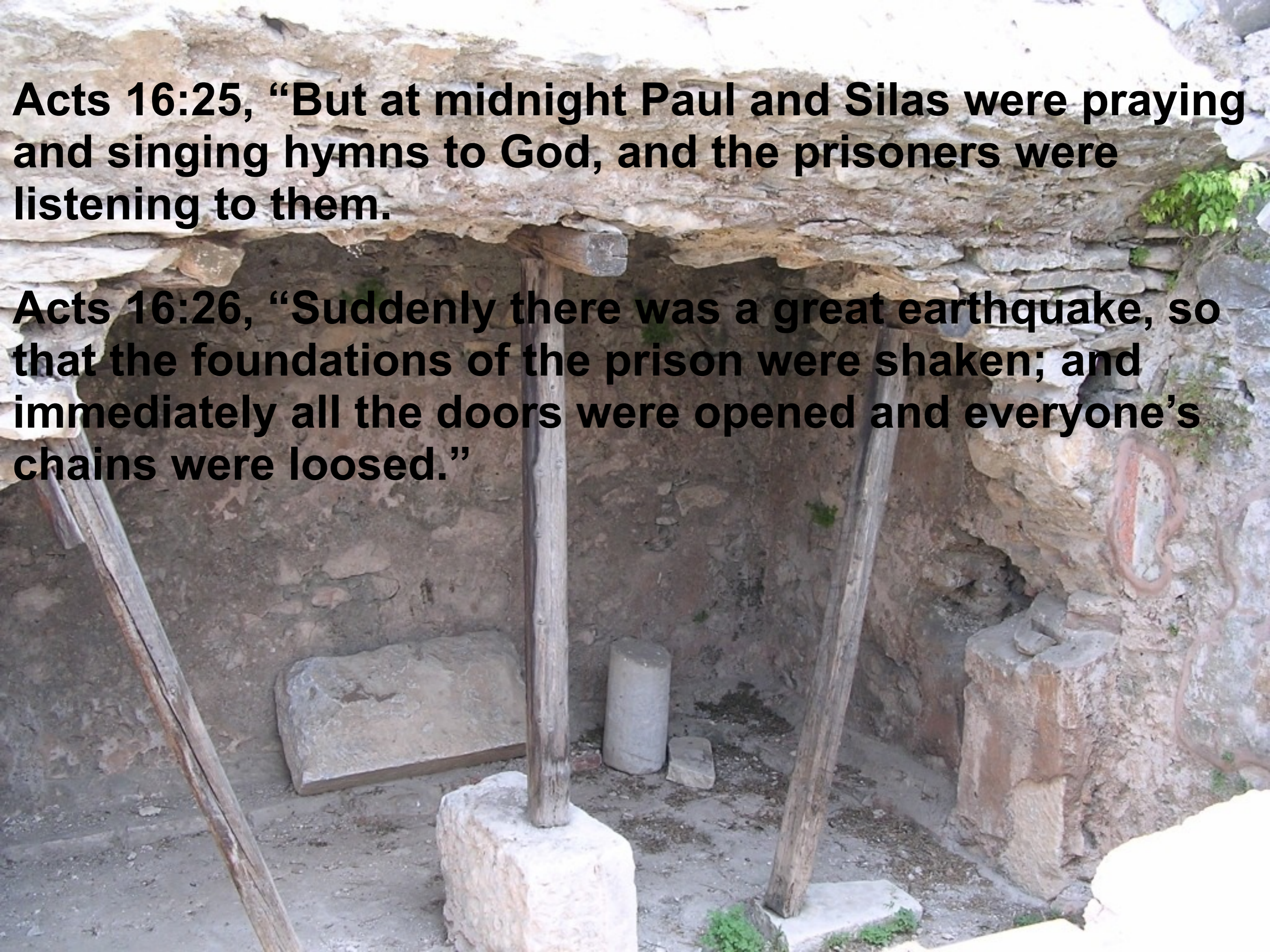


**Acts 16:24, “Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.”**



**Acts 16:25, “But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.**

**Acts 16:26, “Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.”**







**Acts 16:27, “And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.**

**Acts 16:28, “But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, ‘Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.’ ”**

**Acts 16:29, “Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.**

**Acts 16:30, “And he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ ”**

**Acts 16:31, “So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.’ ”**

**Acts 16:32, “Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.**

**Acts 16:33, “And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.”**

**Acts 16:34, “Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed [because they had already believed (perf pass ptcp.)] in God with all his household.”**

**Acts 16:35, “And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, ‘Let those men go.’**

**Acts 16:36, “So the keeper of the prison reported these words to Paul, saying, ‘The magistrates have sent to let you go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace.’ ”**

**Acts 16:37, “But Paul said to them, ‘They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out.’ ”**

**Acts 16:38, “And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans.**

**Acts 16:39, “Then they came and pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to depart from the city.**

**Acts 16:40, “So they went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.”**