

Galatians 1:17-24 & 2:1-2

17. Nor did I go up to JERUSALEM to those who were APOSTLES BEFORE ME; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

- **Acts 15:4** "And when they had come up to _____, they were received by the _____ and the _____ and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them."

Definition: "GO up to JERUSALEM" - Paul already said in verse 16 that he did not immediately confer with (have discussion with) "flesh and blood", meaning human sources, such as the apostles in Jerusalem. **Jerusalem was the headquarters of the early church at this time**, as the church had first begun on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem.

- **Acts 15:22-23** "Then it pleased the _____ and elders, with the whole _____, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also called Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren. They wrote this letter by them: 'The _____, the elders, and the brethren, to the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings.'"
- **Acts 11:22** "Then news of these things came to the ears of the _____ in _____, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch."

Definition: "I went to ARABIA, and returned again to DAMASCUS" - Although this is the only place where it is mentioned, it seems Paul went out into the desert in Arabia (the Sinai Peninsula) immediately after his conversion to be taught by the Lord for three years (verse 18). After that, he returned briefly to Damascus, and then went to Jerusalem to see Peter and the other apostles.

- **Acts 9:22** "But _____ increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in _____, proving that this _____ is the Christ."

18-19. Then AFTER THREE YEARS I went up to Jerusalem to see PETER, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except **James, the Lord's brother.**

- **James 1:1** "_____, a _____ of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings!"
- **Acts 12:17** "But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the _____ had brought him out of the prison. And he said, 'Go tell these things to _____ and to the _____.' And he departed and went to another place."
- **Acts 15:13** "And after they had become silent, _____ answered, saying, 'Men and _____, listen to me.'"

Definition: "JAMES the LORD'S BROTHER" - This is NOT James, the brother of John in the gospels, whose father was Zebedee, because that James was killed by King Herod (see Acts 12:1-2). **This James is a half-brother of Jesus, one of the children of Mary and Joseph born AFTER Jesus.** Jesus was virgin-born, so Joseph was not His father, which makes all of Joseph and Mary's other children half-brothers

and half-sisters of Jesus. **James was the head of the early church in Jerusalem**, and the author of the book of James.

- **Acts 12:1-2** "Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed _____ the brother of _____ with the sword."
- **Matthew 13:55-56** "Is this not the _____ son? Is not His _____ called _____? And His _____, _____, Joses, Simon and Judas? And His _____, are they not all with us?..... "

20-24. (Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie). Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia; and **I was UNKNOWN by FACE to the CHURCHES of JUDEA** which were in Christ. But they were hearing only, "**He who FORMERLY PERSECUTED US now preaches the FAITH which he once TRIED to DESTROY.**" And they glorified God in me.

- **Acts 9:20-21** "Immediately he _____ the _____ in the synagogues, that He is the _____ of _____. Then _____ who heard were _____, and said, 'Is this not he who _____ those who called on this name in _____, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?'"

Definition: "He who FORMERLY PERSECUTED US now preaches the FAITH" - At first, Paul's reputation as a persecutor of the church caused the disciples to be afraid of him. But Barnabas believed him, and vouched for him to the church, and when they had heard Paul's testimony, they praised and glorified God.

- **Acts 9:26-29** "And when _____ had come to _____, he tried to _____ the disciples; but they were all _____ of him, and did _____ believe that he was a _____. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the _____. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had _____ boldly at Damascus in the _____ of _____. So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out. And he spoke boldly in the _____ of the Lord _____ and disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to kill him."

2:1-2. Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me. **And I went up by REVELATION**, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, **lest by any means I MIGHT RUN, or had RUN, in VAIN.**

- **Acts 4:36-37** "And Joses, who was also named _____ by the apostles (which is translated _____ of _____), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet."
- **II Corinthians 2:13** "I had no rest in my spirit, because I did not find _____ my _____; but taking my leave of them, I departed for Macedonia."
- **Philippians 2:16** "Holding fast the _____ of _____, so that I may rejoice in the day Christ that I have not _____ in _____ or labored in vain."

Definition: "And I WENT UP by REVELATION" - A revelation is something that is revealed or shown to you. So, it wasn't just Paul's idea to go up to Jerusalem, but it was a **REVELATION from God**. In other words, **God REVEALED** His will to Paul, and that was that he was supposed to go to Jerusalem.

- **Ephesians 1:17-18** "That the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may _____ to _____: the spirit of wisdom and _____ in the _____ of Him; the _____ of your _____ being enlightened; that you may _____ what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints."

Definition: "Lest by any means I MIGHT RUN, or had RUN, in VAIN" - Many times, the Bible talks about **the Christian life as RUNNING a RACE**. God's word says we should run that race with the object of winning the prize. To "run in vain" would mean you had entered the race, but dropped out or failed to finish somehow, and that **NOTHING was ACCOMPLISHED. Vain means EMPTY, WORTHLESS or POINTLESS**. Paul is NOT talking about running to win our salvation, because salvation is a gift, but rather that **ONCE WE ARE SAVED, it's as if we've signed up for the race**, and now we are running to win a prize. The "prize" or prizes we could win are **the REWARDS we will RECEIVE in HEAVEN for our FAITHFUL SERVICE to GOD (I Corinthians 3:11-15)**. Again, it is NOT trying to win, earn or gain our salvation, but rather rewards to be received when we meet Jesus in heaven.

- **Hebrews 12:1** "Therefore, we also, since we are _____ by so great a cloud of _____, let us lay aside every _____, and the _____ which so easily ensnares us (trips us up), and let us _____ with _____ the _____ that is set before us."
- **I Corinthians 9:24** "Do you not know that those who _____ in a _____ all _____, but one receives the _____? _____ in such a _____ that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the _____ is temperate (self-controlled, disciplined) in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable _____, but we for an imperishable _____. Therefore I _____ thus: _____ with uncertainty. Thus I _____; not as one who beats the air."
- **Matthew 25:23** "His Lord said to him, 'Well done, _____ and _____ servant; you have been _____ over a few things. I will make you _____ over many things. Enter into the _____ of your Lord.'"
- **Romans 14:10** "But why do you _____ your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall _____ stand before the _____ seat of _____."

Definition: "We shall ALL STAND BEFORE the JUDGMENT SEAT of CHRIST" - This is NOT the same as the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15) which will be for all unbelievers, and which will be to decide if their works were good enough for them to get into heaven (which they are not - none of them!). **The Judgment Seat of Christ, also called the "Bema Seat", is for BELIEVERS in JESUS CHRIST ONLY! This is the same as those who were RUNNING the RACE, and now are standing before the judge's bench to receive their prizes which they have won** (like getting the gold, silver or bronze medal in the Olympics, and standing on the podium while they play your national anthem). The Greek word "bema" was a raised platform in the city square or coliseum where the mayor or judge would hand out rewards, especially for sporting events and contests. The "prize" or prizes we could win are **the REWARDS we will RECEIVE in HEAVEN for our FAITHFUL SERVICE to GOD (I Corinthians 3:11-15)**. Obedience to God's commands is what He considers "good works" that are worthy of a reward, but **God sees what MOTIVE is behind the WORKS we do, and that INNER MOTIVE and ATTITUDE of the HEART is as important as the outward deed**. Deuteronomy 28:47 says the Israelites were under the curse not only because of their disobedience, but **because they "did not serve God with JOY and a GLAD HEART"** and their attitude was wrong. Works done with wrong motives are "wood, hay, and straw" - no rewards! God says our works will be "tested by fire" and those that are worthless will

be burned up, **but the person himself will still be saved and will be in heaven** for all eternity, but just without having anything to show for it in the way of rewards (I Corinthians 3:15).

- **II Corinthians 5:10** "For we must _____ appear before the _____ seat of _____, that _____ one may _____ the _____ done in the body, according to _____ he has _____, whether _____ or _____."
- **I Corinthians 3:11-15** "For _____ other _____ can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is _____. Now if anyone _____ on this foundation with _____, silver, _____ stones, _____, hay, _____, each one's _____ will become manifest; for the Day (of judgment) will declare it, because it will be _____ by _____; and the _____ will _____ each one's _____, of what sort it is. If anyone's _____ which he has _____ on it endures, he will _____ a _____. If anyone's _____ is _____, he will suffer _____; but he _____ will be _____, yet so as through fire."
- **Revelation 2:23** ".....And all the _____ shall know that I am He who searches the _____ and _____. And I will _____ to each one of you _____ to your _____."
- **Ephesians 6:6-8** "Not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as _____ of Christ, doing the will of God from the _____, with _____ doing _____, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will _____ the same _____ the _____...."
- **Revelation 3:1b-2** ".....I know your _____, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be _____, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have _____ found your _____ perfect before God."
- **Matthew 16:27** "For the _____ of _____ will _____ in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will _____ each _____ to his _____."
- **Revelation 22:12** "And behold, _____ am _____ quickly, and My _____ is with Me, to _____ to every one _____ to his _____."
- **Matthew 24:45** "Who then is a _____ and wise _____, whom his _____ made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?"
- **II Peter 1:11** "For so an _____ will be supplied to you _____ into the everlasting _____ of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Definition: "An ENTRANCE will be supplied to you ABUNDANTLY" - To enter the kingdom of God requires only that a person be born again by faith in Jesus Christ. **An "ABUNDANT ENTRANCE" into God's kingdom** means those Believers who have received many rewards. God talks about two kinds of people who will be in heaven (God's kingdom): **(1.) Those who receive MANY REWARDS (the ABUNDANT ENTRANCE)** and **(2.) Those who barely get in "by the skin of their teeth"** as the old saying goes. After you are saved by faith in Jesus Christ, **God expects you to live for Him and do good works** (Ephesians 2:8-10). We are only talking about Christians here, not the unsaved! The comfort here is that it says that **even without any rewards** (a person's deeds were all worthless and burned up), that person will still go to heaven. That is what is meant by "saved as though by fire". It's a picture of someone whose house is on fire, and they and their family escaped alive, but everything they owned was burned up. All those who believed on Jesus Christ for their salvation will be in heaven, and that is cause for rejoicing, but how much better to

arrive in heaven with rewards awaiting you in abundance - **the "abundant entrance into the kingdom"?**