

## ~MILETUS (191)

(Mi-le'tus)

### .. Paul Visits

- A city on the West coast of Asia Minor that is now in ruins. It lies near the mouth of the Maeander, or Menderes River and anciently had four harbors. By the **Seventh Century B.C.E.** the Ionians seem to have made **Miletus** a prosperous commercial center having numerous colonies on the Black Sea and in Egypt. The woolen goods of **Miletus** became widely known. Indicative of this is the fact that at;
- Damascus was your merchant in the abundance of your works, because of the abundance of all your valuable things, with the wine of Helbon and the wool of reddish gray. (**Ezekiel 27:18**)
- The **Greek Septuagint** lists, wool from **Miletus**, as an item of Tyre's trade. **Miletus** was also the home of famous philosophers such as Thales, circa **625-547 B.C.E.**, regarded as the founder of Greek geometry, astronomy, and philosophy. In the **Fifth Century B.C.E.** the Persians captured and destroyed Miletus for having shared in revolt.
- Later in **334 B.C.E.**, the rebuilt city fell to Alexander the Great. During Hellenic and Roman times **Miletus** witnessed considerable architectural activity. An impressive ruin from this period is a large theater built in an open field.
- As time passed, the city declined in importance. This is attributed to the silting up of its harbor facilities by the Maeander River.
- Ancient **Miletus** seems to have been situated on a promontory extending from the South side of the Latmian Gulf. But today the ruins of the city lie about 8 kilometers (5 miles) inland, and what was once the gulf is a lake.

### .. Paul Visits

- It was to **Miletus** that the apostle Paul came, in about **56 C.E.** Because of wanting to get to Jerusalem by Pentecost if at all possible and not wishing to spend time unnecessarily in Asia Minor, Paul, apparently at Assos, decided to take a vessel that bypassed Ephesus.

- But he did not neglect the needs of the congregation there. From Miletus, doubtless by means of a messenger, Paul sent for the older men of the Ephesus congregation, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) away.
- The additional time it took for word to reach them and for them to come to **Miletus**, perhaps a minimum of three days, apparently was less than might have been involved had Paul gone to Ephesus.
- Possibly this was because the available ship(s) from Assos putting into port at Ephesus made more breaks in the voyage than did the one(s) stopping at **Miletus**. Or, circumstances in Ephesus itself might have delayed Paul had he stopped there.
- So when he caught up with us in Assos, we took him aboard and went to Mitylene. (**Acts of Apostles 20:14**)
- And, sailing away from there the succeeding day, we arrived opposite Chios, but the next day we touched at Samos, and on the following day we arrived at **Miletus**. (**Acts of Apostles 20:15**)
- For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, in order, that he might not spend any time in the district of Asia, for he was hastening to get to Jerusalem on the day of the festival of Pentecost if he possibly could. (**Acts of Apostles 20:16**)
- However, from **Miletus** he sent to Ephesus and called for the older men of the congregation. (**Acts of Apostles 20:17**)
- In speaking to the older men of the Ephesus congregation, Paul reviewed his own ministry among them, admonished them to pay attention to themselves and to the flock, alerted them to the danger of oppressive wolves entering the congregation, and encouraged them to stay awake and to keep in mind his example.
- Having been told that they would see him no more, these overseers gave way to considerable weeping, fell upon Paul's neck and tenderly kissed him, and then conducted him to the boat.
- When they got to him he said to them; You well know how from the first day that I stepped into the district of Asia I was with you the whole time. (**Acts of Apostles 20:18**)
- Slaving for the Lord with the greatest lowliness of mind and tears

and trials that befell me by the plots of the Jews. ([Acts of Apostles 20:19](#))

- While I did not hold back from telling you any of the things that were profitable nor from teaching you publicly and from house to house. ([Acts of Apostles 20:20](#))
- But I thoroughly bore witness both to Jews and to Greeks about repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus. ([Acts of Apostles 20:21](#))
- And now, look! Bound in the spirit, I am journeying to Jerusalem, although not knowing the things that will happen to me in it. ([Acts of Apostles 20:22](#))
- Except that from city to city the Holy Spirit repeatedly bears witness to me as it says that bonds and tribulations are waiting for me. ([Acts of Apostles 20:23](#))
- Nevertheless, I do not make my soul of any account as dear to me, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received of the Lord Jesus, to bear thorough witness to the Good News of the undeserved kindness of God. ([Acts of Apostles 20:24](#))
- And now, look! I know that all of you among whom I went preaching the kingdom will see my face no more. ([Acts of Apostles 20:25](#))
- Hence I call you to witness this very day that I am clean from the blood of all men. ([Acts of Apostles 20:26](#))
- For I have not held back from telling you all the counsel of God. ([Acts of Apostles 20:27](#))
- Pay attention to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, to shepherd the congregation of God, which he purchased with the blood of his own Son. ([Acts of Apostles 20:28](#))
- I know that after my going away oppressive wolves will enter in among you and will not treat the flock with tenderness. ([Acts of Apostles 20:29](#))

- And from among you yourselves men will rise and speak twisted things to draw away the disciples after themselves. (**Acts of Apostles 20:30**)
- Therefore keep awake, and bear in mind that for three years, night and day, I did not quit admonishing each one with tears. (**Acts of Apostles 20:31**)
- And now I commit you to God and to the word of his undeserved kindness, which word can build you up and give you the inheritance among all the sanctified ones. (**Acts of Apostles 20:32**)
- I have coveted no man's silver or gold or apparel. (**Acts of Apostles 20:33**)
- You yourselves know that these hands have attended to the needs of me and of those with me. (**Acts of Apostles 20:34**)
- I have exhibited to you in all things that by thus laboring you must assist those who are weak, and must bear in mind the words of the Lord Jesus, when he himself said; There is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving. (**Acts of Apostles 20:35**)
- And when he had said these things, he kneeled down with all of them and prayed. (**Acts of Apostles 20:36**)
- Indeed, quite a bit of weeping broke out among them all, and they fell upon Paul's neck and tenderly kissed him. (**Acts of Apostles 20:37**)
- Because they were especially pained at the word he had spoken that they were going to behold his face no more. So they proceeded to conduct him to the boat. (**Acts of Apostles 20:38**)
- At an unspecified time after his first imprisonment in Rome, Paul seems to have returned to **Miletus**. Trophimus, who had earlier accompanied him from **Miletus** to Jerusalem, became ill, necessitating Paul's leaving him behind.
- There were accompanying him Sopater the son of Pyrrhus of Beroea, Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and from the district of Asia

**Tychicus and Trophimus. (Acts of Apostles 20:4)**

- **For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with him, but they were imagining Paul had brought him into the temple. (Acts of Apostles 21:29)**
- **Erastus stayed in Corinth, but I left Trophimus sick at Miletus. (2 Timothy 4:20)**