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A Biographical Study of Silas

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Silas

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. Silas, the messenger
 - A. His attendance at the Jerusalem council (Acts 15:22)
 - B. His assignment by the Jerusalem council—“Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren. . . . We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth. For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well” (Acts 15:22, 27-29).
 - C. His assistance to the Jerusalem council—“Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words” (Acts 15:32).
- II. Silas, the missionary
 - A. His selection by Paul—“But Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God” (Acts 15:40).
 - B. His service with Paul at Philippi
 1. Silas, the sufferer—“And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers . . . And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks” (Acts 16:19, 23-24).
 2. Silas, the singer—“And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them” (Acts 16:25).
 3. Silas, the soul winner—“And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:26-31).

STATISTICS

First mention: Acts 15:22

Final mention: Acts 18:5

Meaning of his name: "Asked of God"

Frequency of his name: Referred to 13 times

Biblical books mentioning him: One book (Acts)

Occupation: Prophet and missionary (Acts 15:32, 40)

Important fact about his life: He was Paul's faithful associate during his second missionary journey.