

Question: Did Paul go to Jerusalem and die because he was disobedient to the Holy Spirit?

Some say that Paul was having problems with his attitude and lost his head over it? I consider this to be a Christian tradition that is not tested. I did some quick research as to why I think that Paul did not act out of his attitude but was part of God's plan to go to Jerusalem, Rome, and death. These verses cover a plan that is happening over many years. God always has lots of years in his plans.

Acts 18:9 Paul told to speak out boldly by Jesus.

Acts 18:18 Paul is holding a vow, we don't know what it is, to my knowledge. This may not be important to the discussion.

Acts 19:21 Paul has purposed "in the Spirit" to go to Jerusalem and Rome. This is years before it happens.

Acts 20:3 Paul was determined to return thru Macedonia - to where? Jerusalem in my opinion.

Acts 20:16 Paul's desire was to be in Jerusalem by Pentecost.

Acts 20:22 Paul states he is "bound by the Spirit" to Jerusalem.

Acts 20:23 The Holy Spirit Tells Paul that bonds and affliction await him. Note that the Holy Spirit is not warning him not to go. Only informing him of what awaits him. Kind of like Jesus knowing where he was headed - to the cross.

Acts 21:4 Friends "through the Spirit" warn Paul to not go. Why? A test of Paul's faith and determination to do what the Holy Spirit has told him to do? They loved him as the disciples loved Jesus and didn't like his prophecy of death either. This is a confirmation to Paul through other brothers and sisters of his calling. Not a warning to stay away. I am guessing that this is the verse that people point to to say that Paul was arrogantly sending himself to his death.

Acts 21:11 The Holy Spirit says Paul will be bound and go to the Gentiles. Not a warning to not go but a confirmation. Paul is willing to die for what Jesus has told him. Mainly because he probably knew that this was going to be the result. Regardless he knew he was to go by the dictates of God's will in past revelation to him.

Acts 23:11 Paul is doing this to witness in Jerusalem and in Rome by the Desire of Jesus. Not Paul. Remember Acts 19:21?

Acts 25:11 Paul appeals to Caesar at least 2 years later After witnessing to many.

Acts 26:32 Without the appeal to Caesar, Paul would not have gone to Rome as planned.

Acts 28:19 The appeal to Caesar was forced by the circumstances. Could it be God?

Acts 28:31 Jesus' statement of prophecy is fulfilled according to plan.

I submit that these events clearly indicate that Paul's trip to Jerusalem and Rome and his ultimate death were a long term plan orchestrated by God himself

James and Peter were in the same prison of Herod in very close proximity, time wise. James died and Peter went on to do great things. Both were Christians, both loved by God, but God's plans were different for each person.

Did you ever notice that Herod was persecuting Christians and died from worms in the same sequence of events? Herod did not die for persecuting the Christians, however. I think this is important as it shows that God is allowing the Christians to be persecuted (read as some die for the purpose) so that Christianity will be somewhere other than in Jerusalem. We get comfortable don't we? Then God must move us.