



## **BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS**

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A1749 ~ Opposition from the Jews.**

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*Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.*

The Jewish rulers and chief priests of the Temple in Jerusalem opposed the teachings of Jesus, even when they saw Him heal the sick and help the disabled. Their hard hearts cared for position, money and power within the social elite of Jewish society much more than the providing of compassionate help to the poor and needy. In time, these leaders wanted to kill Jesus for His authority in all matters over them and eventually, they did.

The rulers wanted to put a stop to Jesus' teaching and the influence it had among the lower classes of society. After the resurrection of Jesus, His ascension back to heaven and the giving of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' faithful disciples, the new believers in Christ still met together in the Temple. But soon a separation between believers in Jesus and those who didn't was forced on the Christians by local violence and persecution.

The Jewish authorities in the synagogues and Temple brought in new segments to their worship services that denied Jesus was the Messiah. They denounced the believers in Jesus as being evil-doers. The final separation took place at the time of the false messiah Bar Kokba, who fought against the Romans and died in battle in 135 AD. The Jewish Christian believers could not accept Bar Kokba's claims of support for his warfare, and so they had to leave Jerusalem and eventually their promised land. From then on, the church and synagogue took separate paths.

The Apostle Paul found opposition from the Jewish authorities in most cities he visited. He'd become so used to it that at the first sign of trouble in Corinth, he considered moving to another place before he was dragged up before magistrates and given some sort of punishment. He enquired of the Lord what he should do. The Lord told Paul in a vision that he would be protected in Corinth and that God had many people in this city that Paul would bring to faith in Jesus.

In today's *Bible Adventure* drama, Paul is once again dragged before a judge.

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DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

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At that time, Gallio was the chief official in the southern province of Greece. His authority was great and he had power to prevent Paul from preaching, not only in Corinth but in every province of the Roman Empire. The order of the chief official of one province was binding on all the other provinces. The outcome of this court hearing was very important to the believers in Christ.

The Jewish religion is one of the legal religions of the Roman Empire; Jews were permitted to have synagogues and worship God according to the Jewish law. But the Jews charged that Paul was not preaching the Jewish religion but some new illegal religion and therefore, was opposing Roman law.

When Gallio heard the Jews' charge against Paul, he immediately concluded that this was a dispute involving only the Jewish religion. Paul had not broken any Roman law. He was merely preaching a form of the Jewish religion which the Jews at Corinth didn't approve of. Therefore, Gallio refused to prohibit Paul from preaching. And through this major judgment, the Christians were able for the next 12 years to legally preach and spread the Gospel of Christ all over the Roman Empire.

At the end of that time, however, a new emperor called Nero, outlawed the Christian religion and began to cruelly persecute believers throughout the Empire.

After the new Jewish synagogue ruler Sosthenes had failed to win his case before Gallio, the Greeks turned on him and they beat him. In New Testament times, most Gentiles including the Greeks resented the Jews for their attitude of superiority over everybody else. So the Gentiles were always ready to mistreat them whenever the opportunity arose. In this instance, Gallio had just insulted the Jews by expelling them from the court; now the Greeks added to the insult by beating up the synagogue ruler.

When Paul and his helpers preached the way of salvation through belief in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, Paul never forced his beliefs on his listeners. They could make up their own mind. In the early days of Christianity, some miracles were performed to establish the church but now, Paul was both preaching and going door-to-door to speak to people in their own homes.

Paul lived in Corinth for 1½ years before he, Priscilla and Aquila sailed east to the city of Ephesus, which was located in present-day Turkey. Paul didn't stay there very long before sailing for Caesarea and then travelling to Jerusalem for a feast. Now why would Paul who had been a Christian for many years want to attend a feast at the Jewish Temple? Christians these days don't often study the Feasts of the Lord, as listed in Leviticus, Chapter 23. Yet, these are the spiritual heritage of each Christian. Judaism and Christianity are as inseparable as seed and flower or tree and fruit.

Israel's deliverance from Egypt is the central point of Jewish history and worship, even as Calvary is the central point in the Christian faith, for on Calvary the work of redemption was achieved for every believer. We aren't told which feast Paul attended before returning to Antioch in Syria. This was the conclusion of Paul's second missionary journey in 51 AD.

We know about Paul's missionary journeys because they're recorded in the Scriptures. Many missionaries have gone out at God's leading and successfully done His work, but they've been forgotten less than a century later. In China, a trio of missionary women in their 50s travelled long distances during the 1920s to bring the Gospel to isolated groups living near the Gobi desert region of northwest China. This is the story of how the Lord led them:

A young Englishwoman named Mildred Cable was studying pharmacy in preparation for missionary work. Her fiancé was also planning to do missionary work but changed his mind. He tried to get Mildred to give up her plans for missionary service too but she refused. She broke off the engagement, graduated and sailed for China. On board the ship taking her there, Mildred met another China Inland Mission worker named Eva French, who was just returning from her first home leave.

Eva had worked at her mission station for 7 years before being forced out by the Boxer Rebellion in 1900. She returned 2 years later.

Eva and Mildred were joined a few years later again by Eva's younger sister, Francesca, who had just had some nursing training. These 3 women worked together for the rest of their lives. After Eva had been at the same mission station for nearly 20 years and had seen good spiritual growth in the congregation there, the trio applied to go northwest to where few people had ever heard about Christ. The mission leaders were at first reluctant to give permission for them to go, as most people travelled those regions in large groups with armed guards for safety.

The trio left on their new missionary journey in 1923. Taking a cart filled with New Testaments in various languages that was pulled along by two mules, they set out along the famous Great Silk Road. In unhurried stages and evangelising as they went, they stayed in filthy inns which were all the road could offer them. Nine months and 1,500 miles later, they reached a town where they knew the doctor – he'd established a church and a hospital there.

From this place, the women moved to the last city within the Great Wall of China. It was known as the City of Prodigals because many had fled there to escape their debts, justice or stepmothers. At the doctor's request, the trio set up a Bible School during the winter. But when summer came, they and some of their Bible students set out on the road again. The trio rented houses and a building for a church in a town close to the northern border of China and this became their base. They travelled extensively, selling and giving away Bibles and Christian literature. They reached some villages in Tibet, some camps in Mongolia and towns in another province.

Sometimes they spent days travelling to a religious festival or a fair. They would take a table and talk to anyone who came near them. Sometimes they rejoiced to meet a person whose heart was already prepared for spiritual matters. One man from Tibet on a pilgrimage wasn't at all surprised to have the trio speak to him about the Lord Jesus. He said Jesus had appeared to him several times in a dream. He knew that he had to believe in Him.

When the trio went home to England for a rest period, they travelled by way of Russia and they reached their destination in 1926. They soon found themselves famous. The courage and endurance of these three women, aged 59, 57 and 50, caught the imagination of the nation. Mildred proved to be an excellent speaker and their book became a best seller; it went into 12 editions.

When the trio returned to their base 18 months later, they planned to set out on another long journey within the vast Gobi Desert and they were away for nearly a year. The relative peace the provinces had enjoyed was by then over. The armies of warlords were roaming the countryside killing the people living at the lakes of water and stealing whatever they could find.

The trio passed scenes of great battles and helped dress the wounds of slaves. After they reached a large oasis, it was captured by the armies of a young warlord known as Baby General. The trio was forbidden to leave and for 8 months they were only allowed to move about the oasis area.

They did what they could to relieve the misery of the people trapped there.

Then Baby General himself was wounded and Mildred was ordered to proceed to his capital, a 4 hard-days' journey across the desert to dress his wounds. The trio refused to be separated. Singing *Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah*, as they always did before each day's journey, they set out one cold morning beside a party of prisoners.

When they did get to meet Baby General, they found him to be a slim youth with a cruel disregard for other people and an untamed temper. Under Mildred's care, his wounds soon healed but he wouldn't let them leave for a while. When he did give his consent, Mildred looked him straight in the eye. She handed him a New Testament and a copy of the Ten Commandments and she advised him to take care of his soul. He took the books and remained motionless, listening to her while the guards marvelled at her courage. Without a word he saluted them as they left.

When they arrived back at the big oasis, the trio planned to escape across the Gobi Desert back to the base. They saved what they could from their small rations and early one morning, drove out the gate as though going to visit a nearby farm. Once out of sight of the guards, they changed direction to travel along one of the loneliest roads, known only to the locals.



The trio expected to be stopped at a military post but they found that it was deserted; every soldier had gone on a looting raid. They were still undetected and travelling hard, lying hidden at nights. Once the soldiers of Baby General caught up with them but they presented their formal passports and they were let go. Another time, a band of thieves let them pass unharmed. Packs of wolves didn't trouble them either.

The trio testified that the meaning and reality of Christ had become intense. He was their Saviour, Guardian and Friend. They'd lacked nothing! In 1936, all missionaries were ordered out of the northwest of China. By then, they'd seen many Christian groups growing in their faith, even some under persecution.

Along with all faithful believers in Christ, from the 1<sup>st</sup> Century to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, may we take courage from the words of Psalm 32, Verse 8: "The Lord says, 'I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.' "

*The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.*

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