

Sha'ul of Tarsus & His Letters ~ Part 91

1 Corinthians ~ Part 31

Note: To examine the graphics in this series, click on them for a pop-up version.

As I emphasized in my previous post, we are delving into the profound significance of **Sha'ul's Letters to the Corinthians**, a crucial cornerstone of our faith.

Closing Personal Thoughts

Collection For Yerushalayim

The collection may be for the **Messianic Jewish** community in **Yerushalayim**. Still, a good case can be made that **God's people** (literally, "the saints" or "the holy ones") means all the **Jewish** people, **Messianic** or not—see Romans 15:25–27, where **Sha'ul**, our esteemed teacher, teaches that **Gentile Believers** have a duty to aid "**the Jews**" materially. Whichever is the case, **Sha'ul**, in his wisdom, had promised the **Messianic Jewish** leaders in **Yerushalayim** that he would "remember the poor" (Galatians 2:10). **Sha'ul**, a man of action, took an earlier such collection to **Yerushalayim** (Acts 11:27–30, 12:25); this one may be the same as that spoken of in Romans and at Acts 24:17 (compare Acts 20:4, 16 with vv. 3, 8 here). In fundraising, as in other matters, **Sha'ul** was no slouch; see 2 Corinthians 8:1–9:15 for his skillful and tactful "follow-up letter"; Romans 15:26–27a seems to imply that his efforts succeeded.

16¹ Now, in regard to the collection being made for God's people: you are to do the same as I directed the congregations in Galatia to do. ² Every week, on Motza'ei-Shabbat, each of you should set some money aside, according to his resources, and save it up; so that when I come, I won't have to do fundraising.

The **Hebrew** expression 'departure of the Sabbath' is a term that signifies Saturday night. It is a translation of the Greek phrase, which means 'every one of a week,' that is, every first day of the week. The question that arises is: Does this refer to Saturday night or Sunday?

Click [here](#) for an exciting discussion of the answer to that question.

³ And when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the people you have approved of, and I will send them to carry your gift to Yerushalayim. ⁴ If it seems appropriate that I go too, they will go along with me.

Sha'ul's Personal Plans

⁵ I will visit you after I have gone through Macedonia, for I am intending to pass through Macedonia, ⁶ and I may stay with you or even spend the winter so that you may help me continue my travels wherever I may go. ⁷ For I don't want to see you now when I am only passing through because I am hoping to spend some time with you if the Lord allows it. ⁸ But I will remain in Ephesus until Shavu'ot⁹ because a great and important door has opened for my work, and there are many people opposing me.

Sha'ul planned to go through **Macedonia** to **Corinth** (on his third missionary journey) and possibly spend the winter there. He expected the **Corinthians** to provide supplies for his journey when he left them. In the meantime, he intended to stay in **Ephesus** until May (the **Jewish** feast of **Shavu'ot** Pentecost) because of the favorable response to the gospel in that city.

About Timothy and Apollos

¹⁰ **If Timothy comes, see that he has nothing to be afraid of while he is with you; for he is doing the Lord's work, just as I am.** ¹¹ **So let no one treat him with disrespect. Help him on his way in peace so that he will return to me, for the brothers and I are expecting him.**

Sha'ul gave instructions on how the **Corinthian Believers** should receive **Timothy**. The word **if** (Gk *ean*) here is equivalent to "whenever." **Sha'ul** was certain **Timothy** was going to Corinth. **Help him on his way in peace** is idiomatic: "supply him with all he needs for the journey."

¹² **As for Brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to go and visit you along with the other Brothers; and although it was not at all his desire to come at this time, he will come when he has the opportunity.** ²

Apollos, whose vital role in growing the Corinthian church Paul readily acknowledged (see 3:5–6 and note), was most likely unwilling **to come now** because of gospel duties elsewhere.

In our next post, we will conclude **Sha'ul's First Letter to the Corinthians**, starting with 1 Corinthians 16:13 and delving deeper into our topic of **Closing Personal Thoughts**. Stay tuned for more insights and revelations.

¹ 1 Corinthians 16:1-12