



**Worship Illustration: Storybook
Commander Cosmos
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts - Revelation
Unit 3, Lesson 12**

Paul's Journey to Macedonia

Acts 16:6-10

"Lieutenant Ruby, what is your report?" Commander Cosmos asked as Ruby's face appeared on screen.

"Our mission has been very successful thus far," she replied. "Ambassador Nofutu said many people have prayed to ask Jesus into their hearts on planet Jerusalem. Now he is helping me spread God's Word on planet Pharis."

"Very good," Commander Cosmos said as he leaned back in his chair. "I'm going to give you another week or two to complete your mission. In the meantime, I've set the ship's course for planet Bithynia. It's only a couple of parsecs away and I want to visit some missionary friends that live there."

Ruby Starlight saluted. "Aye, Sir. We will be waiting for your return to pick us up."

Commander Cosmos returned the salute and closed the connection. He looked up the coordinates for Bithynia and then commanded, "Computer, update our heading."

"Aye, aye, Commander. Skylab Omega passing the star of Mysia on course to planet..." the computer voice paused and then said, "Uh-oh!"

Commander Cosmos stared at the screen. "Uh-oh? Where is planet Uh-oh?!"

"There is no planet uh-oh, sir. I said 'uh-oh' because I have detected solar flares coming from the star of Mysia," the computer replied.

"Well then, we simply can't go that way. A solar flare could burn Skylab Omega to tiny cinders." Commander Cosmos studied the star map. "Computer, chart another course. We can cross through the galaxy of Troas."

"Aye, aye, Commander," the computer responded. "Reversing course and setting coordinates for planet...uh-oh!"

Commander Cosmos shook his head. "Planet Uh-oh, again!"

"No, sir. I said 'uh-oh' because we just entered an asteroid belt," the computer replied.

Commander Cosmos sat up straight, every muscle rigid with alarm. "An asteroid belt? Uh-oh! We must take evasive action! Computer, switch to manual and bring up the asteroid belt on the view screen!"

"Aye, aye Commander," the computer replied as bands of rocks swirling through space appeared on the screen. The spaces between the rocks were too narrow for the ship to maneuver through.

Commander Cosmos sounded the alarm and announced over the intercom, "Attention Crew, we are entering an asteroid belt. Stow all loose items, return to your seats and fasten your seatbelts." He switched his focus intently on steering through the nearly solid wall of floating rocks. After almost an hour, he turned the steering control back to the computer and sat back. "We made it!" he sighed and wiped the sweat from his forehead with the back of his hand.

"Congratulations Commander, Skylab Omega is safe," the computer announced, then sounded the "all clear" for the crew to return to their work.

"Thank you, Lord Jesus!" Commander Cosmos breathed a prayer and then checked the ship's updated coordinates. "Uh-oh! That detour took us light years out of our way. I'm not going back through that asteroid belt. Let's check the star map for a shortcut." He studied several routes for a few minutes. "Hmmm, there's a wormhole near planet Galatia, maybe we can go that way."

"Latest reports show that Galatia is surrounded by unpredictable meteor showers," the computer informed.

Commander Cosmos pressed his lips together. "Well, that closes that door. It just seems like somebody doesn't want us to get to Bithynia."

"Incoming message. Incoming message," the computer announced as a fuzzy image appeared on the screen. A pleading, barely recognizable voice crackled through the speakers, "Please send someone...please come to Macedonia...Macedonia...please..."

Commander Cosmos leaned forward. "Speak up, I can hardly hear you. We have a bad connection. Computer, please boost the signal."

"Too late. The transmission has been lost," the computer informed the commander.

Commander Cosmos looked around the control room. "I think the Holy Spirit is trying to tell us something and I know just where to get the answers. I'll get the Bible out right now!" He lifted the Bible out of its box and opened it to Acts 16. "Aha, I knew this sounded familiar! This very thing happened to the apostle Paul!"

"Excuse me Commander, don't you mean the apostle Saul?" responded the computer.

"Well actually at this point, everyone was calling him by the Greek version of his name, which was Paul," Commander Cosmos explained.

"Understood, Saul is now called Paul," the computer verified.

"Correct," Commander Cosmos said. "Paul and his friends went through an adventure just like the one we just had. They tried several different ways to get to the place they wanted to go. But the Holy Spirit closed every door."

"Pardon me, Commander. I didn't know the Holy Spirit could close doors. Does He also open gates? That would explain why the iron city gate opened all by itself for Peter and the angel!" said the computer.

"Well yes, Computer. The Holy Spirit is sort of like you," Commander Cosmos said.

The images on the screen froze in place. "Like me? Oh no, I'm not holy," the computer argued.

"No, but you do guide the ship. You use your built-in Global Positioning System to tell us which way to go and to steer us away from paths that might lead to danger. That's what the Holy Spirit does. He's sort of like our 'spiritual GPS.' On this day He was guiding Paul to the place that God wanted him to go. That is why all the other ways were blocked." Commander Cosmos stopped and tapped his fingers on the desk. "I believe God might be trying to tell us the same thing. Let me check the Virtual Bible and see what it says."

The computer responded and put the Bible passage from Acts 16 on the screen. Commander Cosmos read, "After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them." Commander Cosmos jumped up, almost hitting his head on the bulkhead over his chair. "Of course! Now that message we received from Planet Macedonia makes sense! Computer, re-route our course. I think God wants us to visit Planet Macedonia."

The computer did not comply. "Are you sure, Commander? The Virtual Bible is thousands of years old."

Commander Cosmos smiled. "It may be old, but truth is always true and the Holy Spirit never changes. After all, Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever!"

"Yes, sir! Setting course for Macedonia!" the computer replied. Skylab Omega obediently changed direction and blasted off for Planet Macedonia to explore whatever God had waiting for her crew.