

## **PAUL'S VOYAGE TO ROME (2)**

### **Acts 28**

#### **Introduction:**

- 1. Acts opens with Jesus' statement to His apostles, "You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).**
- 2. Beginning at Pentecost, we see the fulfillment of Jesus' words.**
  - a. The Gospel was first preached in Jerusalem and Judea.**
  - b. When persecution scattered the church, Christians went everywhere preaching the Word.**
  - c. Philip preached Christ in Samaria and to a man from Ethiopia.**
  - d. Saul the persecutor was converted and became Paul the apostle.**
  - e. Cornelius was converted and the Gospel began to be preached to the Gentiles.**
  - f. The church at Antioch sent out Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey.**
  - g. Paul's three missionary journeys resulted in the Gospel being taken to Cyprus, Asia and Greece.**
  - h. Acts ends with Paul as a prisoner in Rome but preaching the Gospel to all who come to him.**
- 3. While Paul was evangelizing, the other apostles were busy too.**
- 4. Paul had appealed to Caesar after two years in prison in Caesarea.**
  - a. On the voyage to Rome, Paul was shipwrecked on Malta.**
  - b. As the Lord promised, all 276 passengers were saved.**

#### **Discussion:**

- I. THE SHIPWRECKED TRAVELLERS WERE RECEIVED KINDLY BY THE NATIVES OF MALTA (1-10).**
  - A. The natives kindled a fire and made them welcome.**
    - 1. While Paul gathered wood, a viper fastened on his hand.**
    - 2. He simply shook it off in the fire.**
    - 3. The natives thought Paul must be a murderer and justice had caught up with him.**
    - 4. They waited for Paul to swell up and die.**
    - 5. When nothing happened, they declared Paul was a god.**
    - 6. What happened to Paul was a fulfillment of Jesus' words:**

**“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover” (Mark 16: 17,18)**

- B. Publius, the chief of the island, entertained them for three days.
  - 1. This is amazing hospitality for there were 276 men.
  - 2. Publius' father lay ill and Paul healed him (Mark 16:18).
  - 3. The people brought their sick to Paul and he healed them.
- C. When Paul and the others resumed their journey, the grateful natives of Malta gave them what they needed.

## II. THE TRAVELLERS ARRIVED IN ROME AT LAST (11-16).

- A. After three months they were able to book passage.
  - 1. They stopped at Syracuse in Sicily for three days.
  - 2. They reached Rhegium.
  - 3. They found Christians in Puteoli and remained seven days.
  - 4. On the way to Rome they were met by Christians at Appii Forum and at Three Inns.
  - 5. Paul "thanked God and took courage."
- B. In Rome the other prisoners were delivered to the captain of the guard but Paul was permitted to live in his own rented house.
  - 1. He was a Roman citizen who had appealed to Caesar.
  - 2. No charge of wrongdoing had ever been substantiated.
  - 3. The centurion may also have put in a good word for him.

## III. SOON AFTER HIS ARRIVAL, PAUL MET WITH THE LEADERS OF THE JEWS (17-29).

- A. Paul knew the Gospel was "for the Jew first" (Rom. 1:16).
  - 1. He wanted his fellow Jews to know of his innocence.
  - 2. He explained why he had to appeal to Caesar.
  - 3. He was a prisoner because of the hope of Israel.
  - 4. The Jews had had no report of him, but wanted to hear about "the sect that is spoken against everywhere."
- B. Paul arranged a meeting with them to explain the Gospel.
  - 1. He spent an entire day showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ and the church is His kingdom.
  - 2. Some were persuaded and some disagreed.
  - 3. Paul quoted Isa. 6:9,10 and warned them to be careful lest it apply to them (cf. Matt. 13:14,15).

## IV. PAUL LIVED UNDER HOUSE ARREST FOR TWO YEARS (30,31).

- A. He was chained to a Roman soldier at all times.
  - 1. The soldiers who guarded Paul were captive audiences for the Gospel.
  - 2. Christians contributed to Paul's needs during this time (Phil. 4:10-18).

- B. This continued for two years while Paul preached to all who came to him.**
- 1. Luke apparently ended Acts before Paul's hearing before Caesar occurred.**
  - 2. Our curiosity as to the outcome is left unsatisfied.**

**Conclusion:**

- 1. What finally happened to Paul?**
  - a. Some believe he was condemned by the emperor and put to death at this time.**
  - b. The majority of Bible students believe he was freed after his hearing and resumed his work for a time before being arrested again.**
- 2. The evidence is strong for the latter view.**
  - a. In the epistles Paul wrote during this time there is an expectation that he will be released (Phil. 1:19).**
  - b. In 2 Timothy, Paul is resigned to his death (2 Tim. 4:6-8).**
  - c. Second Timothy was the last of Paul's epistles to be written.**
  - d. Likely, Paul was tried, freed, preached for a few years more, was again arrested, and this time was put to death by Nero during Nero's persecution of Christians between 64 and 67.**
  - e. Eusebius, an early church historian wrote: "There is a tradition that the apostle, after his defense, again set forth to the ministry of his preaching, and having entered a second time the same city {Rome}, was perfected by his martyrdom before him {Nero}." (History of the Christian Church, Vol I. by Philip Schaff)**
- 3. Paul stated: "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21).**
  - a. Christians' lives must be fully dedicated to Christ**
  - b. When death comes, and it will come to all, Christians will gain the crown of life which the Lord has waiting for them (2 Tim. 4:8).**
- 4. Do you have the same hope Paul had?**
- 5. Why not make it your hope today (Acts 22:16)?**