

Acts 27

vs. 1-12

Paul was placed in the charge of Julius (Roman centurion) for his trip to Rome. Paul was again accompanied by friends (including Luke). They sailed up the coast from Caesarea to Sidon (there Paul was allowed to go ashore and see some Christian friends). They then headed by boat between the island of Cyprus and Asia Minor; finally landing at Myra (south coast of Asia Minor).

At Myra, they changed ships. They continued west along the coast of Asia Minor and then headed south of Crete (the weather had forced them to take this course). The going was slow. When they finally arrived on the southside of the island, Paul encouraged them to wait out the winter or else face disaster. The centurion listened to the pilot and owner of the boat and sought to reach the end of the island (a more suitable port to winter in).

vs. 13-26

After a good start towards the winter port, a hurricane arose that hurtled them off course (far to the south). They were struggling to keep the ship together, because of the force of the storm. Each day they threw overboard to lighten the ship. For several days the storm was so bad that there was no light in the skies. Finally, Paul got up and encouraged them. Even though they had lost all hope, Paul shared with them a message from God that promised that each person on board would be spared and that Paul would reach Rome, where he would stand trial. Paul warned them that in the process, they would run aground on an island.

vs. 27-44

For two weeks they had been tossed around by the raging storm. Finally, they sensed that they were approaching land. Some of the sailors tried to sneak away in a lifeboat, but Paul warned the centurion, and the sailors remained on board.

Paul encouraged them all to eat, just before dawn. Paul gave thanks to God for the bread and the 276 on board ate and were encouraged. They then threw the remainder of the food overboard.

They were able to see land and a bay that appeared to be a good place to land, so they sailed for it. They hit a sandbar and got stuck and the stern was then broken by the surf.

The soldiers wanted to kill all the prisoners (lest one escape and their life would be forfeited because of it) but the centurion refused. All the people then abandoned ship (some swimming to shore, others floating on broken pieces of the ship).

Acts 28

vs. 1-10

Having arrived safely ashore they discovered that they were on an island called Malta (or Melita-- south of Sicily and Italy). The islanders were kind and built a fire. Paul was getting some work when a viper bit him (the islanders assumed that the gods had destined for him to die because of some horrendous crime like murder). Paul shook off the snake and did not die; the people then assumed him to be a god.

Paul and several others were then taken to the estate of the chief official on the island (where they were well cared for). Paul healed the official's father. The sick from all over the island then came to Paul and were cured.

When the time came for them to leave, the islanders supplied them with everything they needed.

vs. 11-16

They had been on Malta for three months. They then left and arrived at a port city on the east coast of Sicily (where they stayed for 3 days). They then headed up to Italy and up the coast. Upon putting ashore at Puteoli (over halfway up the coast towards Rome) they met some Christians and spent a week with them. Word quickly spread and Paul was met along the way by Christians who were anxiously awaiting his arrival. This encouraged Paul.

At Rome, Paul was placed under house arrest (he lived in his own house) and was constantly guarded by a Roman soldier.

vs. 17-31

After having been in Rome for three days, Paul called together the Jewish leaders of Rome. He explained how the Jews of Jerusalem had had him arrested, the Romans were willing to free him, the Jewish leaders opposed and now all this had taken place because of the hope that all the Jews shared (The Messiah-- which Jesus was). The leaders had heard nothing about all this and arranged to hear Paul again.

When that day arrived, a large crowd gathered and Paul spent all day teaching and showing how Jesus was the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets and what the Kingdom of God was all about. Those listening were divided-- some believed, while the others didn't. When Paul saw the stubbornness, he quoted Isaiah and condemned the Jews for their stubbornness and refusal to turn completely to God. Because of this, Paul stated that he would go to someone who would listen-- the Gentiles (non-Jews). At this, they began to leave.

Paul spent the next two years in his rented house and taught all who came about Jesus and the Kingdom of God!

STUDY GUIDE

ACTS 27

1. Who had charge of Paul on the voyage to Rome?
2. What disciple was with Paul on the voyage?
3. What privilege did Paul enjoy at Sidon?
4. What advice did Paul offer before leaving Fair Havens? How was it received?
5. What did they do as a precaution at Claudia?
6. How did Paul comfort the people when they felt all was lost?
7. How many were on board the vessel?
8. What did the sailors purpose to do and how were they hindered?

BONUS

1. Give an account of the shipwreck.
2. Give an account of thier landing.
3. How does this chapter speak to us today?

STUDY GUIDE

ACTS 28

1. On what island did they land? How were they received?
2. Why did these superstitious people believe Paul was a god?
3. What miracles did Paul perform on this island?
4. How long did Paul and his company remain at Puteoli and why?
5. Where did the brethren from Rome meet Paul?
6. How was Paul treated when he reached Rome?
7. How long does Luke indicate Paul remained in Rome and where?
8. What did Paul do all this time?

BONUS:

1. condense Paul's message to the Jewish leaders and their reply.
2. Condense the essence of Paul's address to the great number of people later on.
3. How does this chapter speak to us today?