

ACTS 28:1-31



A. Introduction:

1. In verses 1-6, all 276 people on the ship reached shore safely on the island of Malta. They were kindly received by the islanders. While there, Paul was bitten by a poisonous viper. Paul shook it off and had no adverse effects! The island chief's father, in verses 7-8, was sick and Paul healed him. Others with diseases came to Paul and were healed in verses 9-10. The people were so grateful that they gave supplies to the centurion for their journey to Rome.
2. In verses 11-15, after 3 months on Malta, they began again by sailing to Syracuse, then to Rhegium, then to Puteoli, where Paul was permitted to meet with some believers for a week. Evidently the centurion had other reasons for delaying his journey to Rome. Julius trusted Paul after experiencing so many events with him.

****Remember, Paul had written the book of Romans. To have these believers welcome him must have been an encouragement to Paul.**

3. After he delivered Paul over to Roman officials in Rome, Julius must have given his account of his time with Paul. Paul was shackled to a Roman soldier, but not placed in a cell (vs. 16). Paul was permitted to live in a house, perhaps paid for by believers. Paul had a certain amount of freedom.
 - a. In verses 17-28, Paul invited some of Rome's Jewish believers to discuss Christ's resurrection. Paul shared his story of how he had arrived in Rome by appealing to Caesar. Paul's main concern in calling them was to share the truth, because it was the only hope for the Jewish people. A dead Messiah could not forgive their sins.
 - b. A second meeting took place where more Jewish leaders attended. Paul proved by the Law and the prophets that Christ was the prophesied One. No doubt, Paul explained **more** about Christ than what is written here. The Jewish leaders' response was typical unbelief as a whole, but some did believe.
 - c. ****This Jewish refusal did not bring God's plan of salvation to a halt, but vindicated the reason why God had turned unto the Gentiles. This indictment to the Jews at Rome by Paul mirrors the indictment by Stephen to the unbelieving Jewish leaders at Jerusalem.**

Acts 7:51 - Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do* ye.

****This marked the end and God's withdrawal of His **favor** from Israel [until the fullness of the Gentiles].**

4. Remember, Jesus said to the Samaritan woman, "Salvation is of the **Jews**" (John 4:22). But now through Christ to Paul, it is declared that "the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles" (Acts 28:28).

Romans 11:11, 15 - I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. Rom. 11:15 For if the casting away of them *be* the reconciling of the world, what *shall* the receiving *of them be*, but life from the dead?

- B. Acts 28:29-31 - And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, and had great reasoning among themselves. Acts 28:30 And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, Acts 28:31 Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

1. While Paul awaited his appeal to Caesar to be heard, for 2 years he enjoyed considerable **free**dom to preach and teach. His only confinement was to his house and a chain attached to a soldier. Paul had a lot of visitors and a fruitful ministry, even establishing a church in the **palace** of the emperor!

Philippians 1:12-13 - But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things *which happened* unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; Phil. 1:13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;

Philippians 4:22 - All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household.

2. When preaching the "Kingdom of God", Paul naturally would explain to Jews and Gentiles how Christ had been rejected, which put the **earthly** kingdom in a temporary holding pattern. While at the same time, he would explain today's **spiritual** kingdom that one enters by believing in Christ and His D.B.R.
3. Some are not sure if Paul was **re**leased for awhile to travel and do ministry while he awaited his hearing. It is a **poss**ibility that this happened. But if not, we know his trial was delayed for a long period. During his imprisonment, Paul wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.
- a. ****Some** believe that Paul was heard and released with his freedom. Then he continued ministry until a **later** imprisonment in Rome, where he gave his **life** - having "finished his course" (II Timothy 4:7).
- b. Being imprisoned twice sounds reasonable because he wrote II Timothy when he was in Rome again, not in a house, but suffering in **bonds** as an "evil doer" (II Tim. 2:9). Paul's request for his cloak indicates he was in a dungeon in the **cold** ground, like he was at Philippi (Acts 16:24, 29).
4. It could have been while writing his second epistle to Timothy that Paul's case took an **ad**verse turn and he realized that his doom physically was sealed! This could be the cause of his urgent appeal for Timothy to hurry to Rome to be with him at the **end**.

II Timothy 1:4; 4:6-9, 21 - Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; 2Tim. 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 2Tim. 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: 2Tim. 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. 2Tim. 4:9 Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: 2Tim. 4:21 Do thy diligence to come before winter. Eubulus greeteth thee, and Pudens, and Linus, and Claudia, and all the brethren.

****We** do know that Dr. Luke (the author of Acts) shared those final moments of Paul's life.

II Tim. 4:11a [Only Luke is with me]. Tradition/history tells us Paul was **be**headed in 67-68 A.D.

5. So Acts 28 does not mark the beginning of a completely new dispensation, but the end of a transition from the **old** Jewish economy to the full-blown operation of the **new** Body Mystery. Also, God did give the Jews a few more days/months before His judgment was carried out.

- a. In A.D. **70**, at Passover - when Jerusalem was full of worshipping Jews, Roman General Titus began his siege of Jerusalem. The battle lasted **134** days. Because of the multitudes that fled into Jerusalem for fear of the advancing Roman army, Josephus reported 600,000 Jews were slain. The temple was burned and completely destroyed.

****That ended the ceremonial practice of Judaism because, without Jerusalem and the temple, there could not be any more offering of sacrifices or the carrying out of other aspects of the law of Moses (Dt. 12:10-14; II Chron. 6:5-6).**

- b. But one day, Israel will return to be God's favored nation and **all** other nations will honor her.

Isaiah 60:2-3, 14 - For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. Isa. 60:3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Isa. 60:14 The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 61:5-6 - And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien *shall be* your plowmen and your vinedressers. Isa. 61:6 But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

Zechariah 14:16 - And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

C. So understand:

1. Cir- quired	<div>Israel</div>	cumcision <u>re</u> quired	-----	<div>Body</div>	Circumcision <u>not</u> re-
2. Don't eat <u>unc</u> lean animals		-----		<u>Every</u> creature of God is good	
3. Keep commandments, <u>obey</u> the law		-----		<u>Not</u> under law, but under grace (Rom. 13:?)	
4. The Holy Spirit could be <u>re</u> moved from a person		-----		Believers are <u>seal</u> ed and can't lose the Holy Spirit	
5. Prophecy truth		-----		Mystery truth	
6. Sins to be blotted out at "the times of refreshing" when Christ comes back to <u>earth</u> again		-----		We have <u>already</u> received forgiveness of sins	
7. The gospel of the <u>earthly</u> kingdom		-----		The gospel of the <u>grace</u> of God, <u>heavenly</u>	
8. Preach to Jews <u>only</u> at first		-----		Preach to <u>every</u> man	
9. <u>Known</u> since the world began		-----		Kept <u>secret</u> since the world began	

- | | | |
|--|-------|---|
| 10. Channel of blessing: <u>Israel</u> | ----- | Channel of blessing: <u>Body</u> of Christ |
| 11. Primary Scriptures: Genesis-Acts 7 | ----- | Primary Scriptures: Paul's Epistles |
| 12. <u>12</u> sent to Israel | ----- | <u>Paul</u> sent to Gentiles |
| 13. <u>Great</u> Commission | ----- | <u>Grace</u> Commission |
| 14. Christ <u>openly</u> to return <u>to earth</u> | ----- | Christ <u>secretly</u> comes <u>in heaven</u> |