

## Zealous Toward God Part 3 of 3

### Acts 28

27 ends with Paul being shipwrecked on the island of Malta – a few weeks journey that took a few months.

28 ends the book looking at the final leg of Paul's journey to Rome.

26-28 are grouped together in our study of the "ABCs of Acts" – Zealous Towards God

#### **1. Adventures on an Island – Acts 28:1-10**

- P not where he wants to be – Malta
- 1: Melita [KJV] = Malta [NASB]; 18mi long, 8mi wide; 58mi of Sicily; 'refuge' in Canaanite lang
- 2: extraordinary – not in the ordinary; kindness – Greek – philanthropy. ~50°F chilly
- 3: vipers only cling if they bite – skeptics; none there today, 3000 people/mi<sup>2</sup>
- 4: islanders somehow heard of P's past
- 5: see Luke 10:19; Mark 16:17-18
- 6: swell up – Dr. Luke giving medical terms. Die instantly as swells; McGarvey: "Lystra reversed;" Satan's last effort to stop P > Rome
- 7: Providence of God puts him at Roman appointed governor of Malta, Publius
- 8: Dr. Luke – Malta fever, 2/3 yrs., 1887 disc.: caused by microorganisms in goats milk
- 9: word of healing spread fast; cured – Greek – to treat medically; Luke – medicinally; Paul – miraculously [?]
- 10: many honors

#### **2. Arrival at Rome – Acts 28:11-16**

- Finally in Rome – fulfillment of God's promise
- 11: 3 mo. – perhaps Nov., Dec., & Jan.; Port Valletta – Twin Brothers: Castor & Pollux, sons of Zeus – Gemini constellation
- 12: 60mi to Syracuse, capital of Sicily
- 13: Rhegium – toe of Italian boot; Puteoli – principal port between Bay of Naples and Rome; walk 75mi to Rome
- 14: stay to worship; Non Appian Way – most famous Roman Road
- 15: Rom. 16 – P mentions 26 friends in Rome; Appii forum/Market of Appius - 43mi from Rome; Three Taverns/Inns – 33mi from Rome

- 16: last of “we” passages in Acts; P lived under house arrest.
- Today: walk Non Appian Way, same gate

### **3. Awaiting Trial – Acts 28:17-31**

- 17: called Jewish leaders – synagogue first [17:1-3]; denied all rumors about him
- 18: everyone found P innocent
- 19: distinction between his audience and accusers – the Jews (back in Judea)
- 20: prob. showed his chain as he spoke
- 17-20: 3 points: 1] committed no crimes against the Jews; 2] Romans had nothing against him; 3] had no charges to press against the Jews
- 21: surprising Jerusalem Jews didn’t send word to Rome – sufficient time to do so
- 22: heard nothing about P but had heard negative reports of what he espoused
- 23: another day for hearing; lodging different than v. 30
- 24: typical – some believed, some didn’t
- 25: argument arose; credit to insp. of Isa.; distanced himself from them – “your fathers”
- 26,27: Isa. 6:9-10 – danger of trifling with God’s Word; Jesus applied: Mt. 13:14,15; Mk. 4:12; Lk. 8:10 [soils]; John: 12:40
- 28: Gentiles more receptive than them
- 29: Gentiles made them depart; Jews could not force P out or stone him [13:50; 14:5,19]
- 30: why so much time pass? No clue; financial aid come from Philippi, Phil. 2:25, 4:10-18
- 31: openness – preaching candidly, clearly, and confidently
- While in prison, Paul wrote:
  - Eph: Christ & His Church
  - Phil: Paul’s love letter to the church at Philippi
  - Col: combat heresy by exalting Jesus
  - Philemon: personal letter to a friend
  - P refers to his imprisonment in each of these
- Old friends there: Luke, Timothy, John Mark, Aristarchus, Epaphroditus, Tychicus, Justus, Epaphras, Demas
- Abrupt ending – what happened before Caesar? Sequel? Purpose: tell how the Gospel reached & prospered in Rome

**Lessons:**

1. If we are faithful to God's commands, He ***will be*** faithful to us. He has demonstrated this in the Old and New Testament.
2. We should never be afraid to speak about the truth of the Gospel – even if our audience will not like to hear it! Everyone needs to hear the Gospel!
3. We need to make the most of every situation that we find ourselves in – Paul wrote some of his best writings in prison.

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