



**Cruising the Med with Paul  
God's Way is Very Different from Ours  
Acts 27 & 28**

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Paul is to go to Rome as a result of his appeal to Caesar, and it appears Luke is with him for the trip. We will discover that Paul is someone that Satan wants dead and this will not be a quiet cruise on the Mediterranean. Far from it.

Festus, having finished up his paperwork on the case, is ready to send Paul. Let someone else deal with the political hot potato.



And yes, most of this is narrative and history so we will indeed see if we can get through two chapters today.

#### Acts 27:1–5

“Now when it was decided that we would sail for Italy, they proceeded to turn Paul and some other prisoners over to a centurion of the Augustan cohort, named Julius. And we boarded an Adramyttian ship that was about to sail to the regions along the coast of Asia, and put out to sea accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica. The next day we put in at Sidon; and Julius treated Paul with consideration and allowed him to go to his friends and receive care. From there we put out to sea and sailed under the shelter of Cyprus, because the winds were contrary. When we had sailed through the sea along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra in Lycia.” (NASB 2020)

Paul is to accompany a group of prisoners, but his status is very different from that of the most likely adjudicated prisoners on board. The fact that a guard is included tells you that some of them may be on their way to Rome for execution or for the games. WE do not know which as we are not provided a lot of detail. Paul, though, is a Roman citizen who is on his way to Rome for an appearance at the Supreme Court in front of Emperor Nero.

The centurion Julius, into whose custody he was delivered, belonged (we are told) to the Augustan Cohort. (The term “Augustan,” i.e., “His Imperial Majesty’s,” was a title of honor bestowed on several cohorts of auxiliary troops.) (Bruce 1988, 477)

This is a ship that will make several port calls as it heads north along the coast. Julius is looking for a ship, most likely a grain ship, that is headed for Italy.

Paul is privileged to have two friends traveling with him, Doctor Luke, and Aristarchus who is from Thessalonica. The first stop is 69 miles north in Sidon and while there, Julius allowed Paul to visit friends.

The journey continued from there east and north past Cyprus and getting to Asia Minor to the port of Myra which is about 108 miles southeast of Colossae.

It is here that Julius finds the grain ship from Alexandria Egypt bound for Italy he was looking for that would provide a direct trip. However, it is late in the sailing season.

#### Acts 27:6–8

“There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy, and he put us aboard it. When we had sailed slowly for a good many days, and **with difficulty had arrived off Cnidus, since the wind did not permit us to go farther, we sailed under the shelter of Crete, off Salmone; and with difficulty sailing past it, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near which was the city of Lasea.**” (NASB 2020)

It is here that Julius finds the grain ship from Alexandria Egypt bound for Italy he was looking for that would provide a direct trip. However, it is late in the sailing season, the difficulties being encountered by the crew reflects that. Based on the text, they may have waited too long to resume.

#### Acts 27:9–13

“When considerable time had passed and the voyage was now dangerous, since even the fast was already over, Paul started admonishing them, saying to them, “Men, I perceive that the voyage will certainly be with damage and great loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives.” But the centurion was more persuaded by the pilot and the captain of the ship than by what was being said by Paul. The harbor was not suitable for wintering, so the majority reached a decision to put out to sea from there, if somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete facing southwest and northwest, and



spend the winter there. When a moderate south wind came up, thinking that they had attained their purpose, they weighed anchor and began sailing along Crete, closer to shore." (NASB 2020)

It is late September early October, the reference to the fast connected to Yom Kippur helps us to lock down the time of year. "Sea travel was normally not undertaken after mid-September and was avoided from November 11 to mid-March (Vegetius, *On Military Affairs* 4.39). The expression *mare clausum* (the sea is closed) marked this period (Roloff 1988: 361)." (Bock 2007, 733)

Paul has spent enough time traveling over the years that he knows this is not time to be setting out. Earlier he had written this to Corinth.

2 Corinthians 11:25–26

"Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, **three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent adrift at sea.** I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, dangers among false brothers;" (NASB 2020)

Obviously protected by God, but not travel agent material.

In our translation, it sounds like Paul is verbally beating the decision makers up. The Greek word he uses here is παρήνει (parenei) and means to "advise strongly, recommend, urge." (Arndt, et al. 2000, 764)

The Holy Spirit is showing Paul the danger that lies ahead and he participates in a ship wide meeting, but the decision of the majority is to continue the voyage. The cargo is worth serious money to the captain, and he feels the risk is acceptable. The thing is, Satan wants Paul dead. Satan is the prince of the power of the air, so guess what is about to take place? Yep, a storm.

The goal is to winter at a suitable harbor, Phoenix, in Crete that can withstand the winter storms due to the location and layout of the harbor. It is, after all, only 50 miles or so up the coast.

*With a southern breeze, therefore, they could expect to reach their destination in a few hours.—ἄραντες sc. τὰσάγκυας, having weighed.—ἀσσον—Κρήτην, they coasted by Crete, lit. nearer sc. than usual, i.e. quite near. This clause as we see from the next verse, describes their progress immediately after leaving their anchorage at Fair Havens. It applies, therefore, to the first few miles of their course.*

*During this distance, as has been suggested already, the coast continues to stretch towards the west; and it was not until they had turned Cape Matala that they would have the full benefit of the southern breeze which had sprung up. With such a wind they would be able just to weather that point, provided they kept near to the shore. (Hackett 1850, 752-753)*

But Satan wants Paul dead.

Acts 27:14–20

"But before very long a violent wind, called **Euraquilo**, rushed down from the land; and when the ship was caught in it and could not head up into the wind, we gave up and let ourselves be driven by the wind. Running under the shelter of a small island called Cauda, we were able to get the ship's boat under control only with difficulty. After they had hoisted it up, they used supporting cables in undergirding the ship; and fearing that they might run aground on the shallows of Syrtis, they let down the sea anchor and let themselves be driven along in this way. **The next day as we were being violently tossed by the storm, they began to jettison the cargo; and on the third day they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.** Since neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no



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small storm was assailing us, from then on all hope of our being saved was slowly abandoned." (NASB 2020)

"An ancient ship with one huge sail was exposed to extreme danger from such a blast; the straining of the great sail on the single mast was more than the hull could bear; and the ship was exposed to a risk which modern vessels do not fear, foundering in the open sea. It appears that they were not able to slacken sail quickly; and, had the ship been kept up towards the wind, the strain would have shaken her to pieces. Even when they let the ship go, the leverage on her hull must have been tremendous, and would in a short time have sent her to the bottom. (Ramsay 1907, 328)

What was behind the decision to sail soon? Profit, money, cash. And now because of the storm, what is the first thing that went overboard? Profit, money and cash.

The world, in other words, the captain, had opted for the things of this world, but now within less than 48 hours, they have been driven 23 miles off course, are taking extreme measures to save the ship, and after letting down the anchors to keep from being violently thrown about, have made the decision to throw the cargo, overboard. So much for profit.

I am reminded of what Jesus had to say about those who rely on their greed as the paramount point for decision making.

Luke 12:16–21

"He then told them a parable: "The land of a certain rich man produced an abundant crop, so he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. **And I will say to myself, "You have plenty of goods stored up for many years; relax, eat, drink, celebrate!"** ' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded back from you, but who will get what you have prepared for yourself? So it is with the one who stores up riches for himself, but is not rich toward God.'" (NET 2nd ed.)

The decision which had been made a few days before is now revealed to have been the wrong one. They are doing everything they can do to prevent themselves from drifting further south eventually into the shore of Africa.

The crew has now reached the point where they are desperate, seasick, and wondering if they are to survive this at all.

Many of us before we finally surrendered to the Lord found ourselves in the same situation. We had tried to do life on our own, and it just didn't work. And for some of us, options were very few.

Acts 27:21–26

"When many had lost their appetites, Paul then stood among them and said, "Men, you should have followed my advice and not have set sail from Crete, and thereby spared yourselves this damage and loss. And yet now I urge you to keep up your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong, whom I also serve, came to me, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has graciously granted you all those who are sailing with you.' Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told. But we must run aground on a certain island.'" (NASB 2020)

Up to this point, Paul has been silent and said nothing. Now, as many of the professional sailors no longer want to eat because they are so ill, and realizing there will be no bonus upon arrival, if they even ever arrive, they appear to be ready to listen. And yes, Paul basically tells, them, "I told you so."



But he goes from that point and turns to encouragement. Paul already knows, because the Lord has told him this, that he will indeed get to Rome and speak with Nero. He knows that for a fact. And now, on top of that, the Lord has sent an angel, most likely the same one protecting him, and a message from that angel.

Acts 27:23–26

**“For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong, whom I also serve, came to me, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has graciously granted you all those who are sailing with you.’ Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told. But we must run aground on a certain island.”” (NASB 2020)**

The good news, God is protecting us, the bad news, the ship will run aground and be a total loss. The bad news, you have more storm to deal with.

Acts 27:27–29

“But when the fourteenth night came, as we were being driven about in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors began to suspect that they were approaching some land. And they took soundings and found it to be twenty fathoms; and a little farther on they took another sounding and found it to be fifteen fathoms. **Fearing that we might run aground somewhere on the rocks, they cast four anchors from the stern and prayed for daybreak.” (NASB 2020)**

We will discover that the island they will run aground on is Malta. They have drifted a long ways from Crete.

The sailors had a plan, launch the boat again and escape before the ship ran aground in order to save themselves and under the guise of dropping the anchors they set the plan in motion.

Acts 27:30–32

“But as the sailors were trying to escape from the ship and had let down the ship’s boat into the sea, on the pretense that they were going to lay out anchors from the bow, Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men remain on the ship, you yourselves cannot be saved.” Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship’s boat and let it fall away.” (NASB 2020)

So much for that plan.

Paul had been promised the lives of all on board the ship as long as they stayed on the ship. Julius believed what Paul had said about the angel giving the instructions and as a result, acted on that word. They would be saved God’s way, not theirs.

Dropping the anchors from the stern rather than the bow was an intentional action to keep the boat pointed towards the land they were being driven towards.

They knew they were approaching land because they could hear it as the waves hit the shore, and the soundings they did showed the bottom was coming up. It does appear that many are now listening to Paul.

Acts 27:33–38

“Until the day was about to dawn, Paul kept encouraging them all to take some food, saying, “Today is the fourteenth day that you have been constantly watching and going without eating, having taken in nothing. Therefore, I encourage you to take some food, for this is for your survival, for not a hair from the head of any of you will perish.” Having said this, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all, and he broke it and began to eat. All of them were encouraged and they themselves also took food.



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We were 276 people on the ship in all. When they had eaten enough, they began lightening the ship by throwing the wheat out into the sea." (NASB 2020)

This makes sense, they had all been fasting for two weeks now and were going to need all the strength they had very soon. Was this based on a word from the Lord, could be, but it was also based on common sense. Many times, ministry is common sense. You pray for guidance, and then head on out. It makes perfect sense to eat now.

Let me point this out as well. Paul and Luke are in God's will and on their way to Rome. Satan is obviously trying to stop the journey, thus the storm. They ride through the storm. I agree with Dr. McGee.

I personally believe that oftentimes the Lord deliberately sends us into a storm. We need to remember that we can be in the storm and still be in the will of God. He has never said we will miss the storms of life, but He has promised us that we will make the harbor. And He will be right there with us through the storm. (McGee 1997, 634)

When the three Jewish young men were thrown into the furnace in Babylon, where was God then? In the furnace with them. God is always with us as we go through trials, always.

Earlier the cargo and ships tackle had gone overboard, now, after eating, so does the food.

Acts 27:39–40

"Now when day came, they could not recognize the land; but they did notice a bay with a beach, and they resolved to run the ship onto it if they could. **And casting off the anchors, they left them in the sea while at the same time they were loosening the ropes of the rudders; and they hoisted the foresail to the wind and were heading for the beach.**" (NASB 2020)

About those anchors. Yes, they have been discovered. The Base Institute reports:

*"Dr. Anthony Bonano, head of the Department of Classics and Archaeology at the University of Malta, upon investigation of the fourth anchor, said: "What you have just shown me is, to be precise, part of an anchor, called an anchor stock, which is lead and is an essential part of a typical Roman anchor. Its flourishing period would be around the first century A.D., though its use would have spanned from the first to second century A.D. back to the second or third century B.C. It would be considered universally Roman, and could have come from a ship from Rome or from Alexandria . . . Of course, a ship would have several of these."*

*The one anchor out of the four that has been preserved, verifiably dates to the first-century era of Roman shipping when Paul's shipwreck occurred. They were found on the southeast shore of Malta, which is the only shoreline that Paul's ship could have approached under those particular conditions. They were found alongside a projecting offshore reef, which, under storm conditions, resounds with the roar of waves breaking over it, and would be an unseen warning of impending landfall in the dark of night. They were found along a route that represents precisely the depth in fathoms as recorded by Luke. They were found in exactly the correct 90-foot depth recorded by the sailors' soundings. They were found in the exact number - four - and the exact proximity - all within a 40-yard radius - that maritime experts say the account in Acts would predict. They were just outside a bay, which, untypical of the Maltese coast, includes a sandy beach. They were found along a coastline that, because it is not on normal ancient shipping lanes, would have been entirely unfamiliar to the professional sailors on Paul's ship. They were found outside a bay that is guarded by a reef where, under storm conditions, "two seas meet" or collide with great intensity. They were found in an area that would have afforded all 276 men aboard Paul's ship a reasonable chance of swimming or floating to shore.*



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*All of these factors, taken together, argue convincingly not only that today's St. Thomas' Bay is the correct site of Paul's shipwreck, but also, that the four anchors recently retrieved from those waters were the very anchors mentioned in Acts 27. As such, that one anchor may well be the only artifact mentioned in the New Testament that has been recovered and preserved in our era--nearly two thousand years after the fact." (Base Institute 2026)*

Acts 27:41–44

"But they struck a reef where two seas met and ran the ship aground; and the prow stuck firmly and remained immovable, while the stern started to break up due to the force of the waves. The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, so that none of them would swim away and escape; but the centurion, wanting to bring Paul safely through, kept them from accomplishing their intention, and commanded that those who could swim were to jump overboard first and get to land, and the rest were to follow, some on planks, and others on various things from the ship. And so it happened that they all were brought safely to land." (NASB 2020)

Just like the sailors made some decisions to save themselves and were stopped, because God would save all on the ship His way, the soldiers had the same idea. They did not want to find out a prisoner was missing and then be held accountable for it, even if the prisoner had drowned, so they were going to save themselves by killing all of the prisoners.

"Julius wanted to spare Paul's life (diasōsai ton Paulon, 'to save Paul') and kept them from carrying out their plan. The centurion's trust in Paul and his admiration for him seem to have developed during the journey. 'Paul is a benefactor of the others on this voyage, but he is also benefited.' Indeed, all the prisoners were preserved because the centurion wished to save Paul, and so he ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land." (Peterson 2009, 695-696)

Thank you for sailing with Paul, now swim.

Paul was mature in Christ but was still being shaped through trials. We are often objective-oriented, but God is process-oriented. We just want to get to Rome, but God is even more interested in how we get there. (Hughes 1996, 338)

Why has this happened to Paul and Luke? Yes, Satan is tryin got kill him but God has been with him the whole time and encouraged him as well. You see, there are people on Malta who have not yet heard the word of God.

Acts 28:1–6

**"When they had been brought safely through, then we found out that the island was called Malta. The natives showed us extraordinary kindness, for they kindled a fire and took us all in because of the rain that had started and because of the cold. But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand. When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they began saying to one another, "Undoubtedly this man is a murderer, and though he has been saved from the sea, justice has not allowed him to live." However, Paul shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm. Now they were expecting that he was going to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had waited a long time and had seen nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and began to say that he was a god."** (NASB 2020)

No, this does not mean we are going to start handling snakes as they do in a few churches elsewhere. But what this does show us is that until the Lord says we have completed what He wants us to do, we are protected by Him and in this case, from a viper.



#### Mark 16:17–18

“And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.” (ESV)

Important point to remember as we read this. Paul did not sort through the sticks to find the viper. He did not walk over and say watch this. No, he was putting material into the fire to burn and the viper was dormant until hitting the flames and it latched onto Paul's hand. Paul did not do this deliberately. It was not presumption.

This was not intentional and Paul was not testing God. But God did indeed extend His protection over Paul in this event and prevented the venom from affecting him. Daniel found himself thrown into the lions den, he didn't cruise over and decide to sleep there tonight. God was there with him in that storm. Just like he had been with Paul numerous times in the past and He was with Him right now as well.

God can and will protect us, according to His will, as we are serving Him. But we are not to put the Lord to the test. Just as Jesus refused to jump off the pinnacle of the temple and just as Daniel did not go lion-hunting, so are we not to intentionally seek out situations that require God's miraculous intervention. While not speaking directly of snake handling in churches, 1 Corinthians 10:9 could apply: “We should not test the Lord, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes.” (Got Questions Ministries 2014–2021)

#### Acts 28:7–10

“Now in the neighboring parts of that place were lands belonging to the leading man of the island, named Publius, who welcomed us and entertained us warmly for three days. **And it happened that the father of Publius was lying in bed afflicted with a recurring fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him, and after he prayed, he laid his hands on him and healed him. After this happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases were coming to him and being cured.** They also showed us many honors, and when we were about to set sail, they supplied us with everything we needed.” (NASB 2020)

Now we know why Paul and Dr. Luke are there.

In order to have Publius and others reached for Jesus through Paul. The Lord had Paul arrested and placed on ice for two years. He wound up having to assert his Roman citizenship more than once and even appeal to Emperor Nero in Rome. He is now enroute to Rome and the ship he is in has been attacked by Satan and sunk in the Mediterranean and it just so happened to be on the coast of Malta, where there were some who needed to hear about Jesus.

And the people there who would care for them and allow them to stay until spring.

You and I have no idea of the lengths that God has gone through to make sure you and I hear the word of God at just the right time in order to say yes and believe.

Edward Kimball was an ordinary follower of Jesus Christ, a Sunday school teacher and he was struggling in being a witness for the Lord where he worked at a shoe store. The store had just hired a new guy Edward decided he would share the gospel with the new guy. He finally mustered up the courage and shared Christ and the new guy accepted Jesus. The new guy was Dwight L. Moody. Over the years, Moody's message led thousands to Jesus including Wilbur Chapman.

Chapman felt called to evangelism and he needed some help in the ministry, so he hired a recently saved baseball player by the name of Billy Sunday. Billy Sunday traveled also preaching the word of God and preached at a series of meetings in Charlotte, North Carolina, so many believed that they also invited



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Mordecai Ham to come and preach as well. On one of the final nights of the extended set of meetings, a “tall, lanky farm boy walked down the aisle. His name was Billy Frank, but more of us know him today as Billy Graham. And he has personally delivered the gospel message to more people than any other man in human history.” (Laurie and Kopp 1999, 66)

Paul was faithful to what the Lord had called him to do. Not everyone he talked to came to Christ, but many did and in some cases, his voice was the first of several before someone who finally say yes to Jesus.

He was willing to be used on God’s terms, not his. We are called to do the same. As his church, we are to make disciples. This is why I talk about Jesus Christ and the need to believe in Him. I have no problem throwing out seed. It is the Holy Spirit’s job to take that seed and produce a harvest, not mine. Not yours. We are called to just be faithful. Paul is an extreme example of that but in our lives, we are asked nothing different of the Lord that He asked of Paul, just follow and be faithful.

Although the early history of Christianity on Malta remains unclear, Christian inhabitants have claimed that the origin of their church dates back to Paul’s accidental arrival in AD 60. (Krause 2016)

By the way, Publius wound up becoming the first pastor in Malta and was there for thirty-one years until going to Athens in 90 AD. He was martyred in Athens in 125 AD.

Paul can now rest, as much as possible while planting yet another church under the auspices of the Roman Empire.

Acts 28:11–22

**“After three months we set sail on an Alexandrian ship which had wintered at the island, and which had the Twin Brothers for its figurehead. After we put in at Syracuse, we stayed there for three days. From there we sailed around and arrived at Rhegium, and a day later a south wind came up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli. There we found some brothers and sisters, and were invited to stay with them for seven days; and that is how we came to Rome. And from there the brothers and sisters, when they heard about us, came as far as the Market of Appius and the Three Inns to meet us; and when Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage. When we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him. After three days Paul called together those who were the leading men of the Jews, and when they came together, he began saying to them, “Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was handed over to the Romans as a prisoner from Jerusalem. And when they had examined me, they were willing to release me because there were no grounds for putting me to death. But when the Jews objected, I was forced to appeal to Caesar, not that I had any accusation against my nation. For this reason, therefore, I requested to see you and to speak with you, since I am wearing this chain for the sake of the hope of Israel.” They said to him, “We have neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor has any of the brothers come here and reported or spoken anything bad about you. But we desire to hear from you what your views are; for regarding this sect, it is known to us that it is spoken against everywhere.”” (NASB 2020)**

Within about three weeks, Paul and Luke are in Rome.

Upon arrival in Rome, the job of Julius was done. He delivered all of his prisoners to Rome and Paul would remain under Roman supervision, but he was allowed to have his own home and to do ministry, he just could not leave. Imagine all the Roman guards he talked to during the two years he was there waiting for his time to talk to Nero. Someone new every four hours.



He met with the Jews and unlike the threats in the past, they wanted to hear more. And there had been no letters or anything from Jerusalem about him.

Christians came and greeted Paul as he approached Rome. They traveled about 43 miles to get there. They had received a letter from Paul seven years before a now he was here.

When Paul came to Rome, the city had existed for almost 800 years. The famous Coliseum was not yet built; but the prominent buildings were the temple of Jupiter, the palaces of Caesar, and a temple to Mars (the god of war). At the time, Rome had a population of about two million—a million slaves, and a million free. Society was divided into roughly three classes: A small upper class, a large class of the poor, and slaves. (Guzik 2013, Ac 28:16)

Acts 28:23–31

“When they had set a day for Paul, people came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening. **Some were being persuaded by the things said by Paul, but others would not believe.** And when they disagreed with one another, they began leaving after Paul said one parting statement: “The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers, saying, ‘GO TO THIS PEOPLE AND SAY, “YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, AND WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; AND YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, AND WILL NOT PERCEIVE; FOR THE HEARTS OF THIS PEOPLE HAVE BECOME INSENSITIVE, AND WITH THEIR EARS THEY HARDLY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES; OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.”’ Therefore, let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will also listen.” Now Paul stayed two full years in his own rented lodging and welcomed all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching things about the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.” (NASB 2020)

Those Jews who were in Rome, and the numbers are not as large as they had been in the past since Claudius did indeed kick them all out about the time Paul went to Corinth the first time. But they did indeed come together to hear him at his rented home and again, not all believed. And Paul was clear, he is taking the message to the gentiles now.

Why is he not in the dungeon but in a rented house. Remember the legal documents Festus had to send, there is not much of a case.

The litterae dimissoriae of Festus would have included not only Paul’s appeal to the emperor but also the rehearsal of what Felix, Festus, and for that matter Agrippa had concluded about the matter—namely, that Paul was not guilty of any significant crime (crimen maiestatis) under Roman law. (Witherington III 1998, 790)

And with that, Dr. Luke is done.

What happened to Paul? He doesn’t tell us.

Nero did not like doing trials and he also disliked signing execution orders. There is the possibility the case was dismissed and Paul headed to Spain. There is also the possibility that he was exiled to Spain and then later Nero had him brought back but this time in serious chains.

The one thing we do know, he remained faithful to the end.



And again, that is all Jesus asks of us, to tell our story as Paul has done and to remain faithful and obedient.

Romans 3:21–24

“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)

#### **ABC's of Salvation**

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

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