

## Paul—Acts 28

### Paul Arrived at Rome and Was Imprisoned

#### I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

01. **28:2... the barbarous people**—“The Greeks called all men 'barbarians' who did not speak Greek ([Rom 1:14](#)), not 'barbarians' in our sense of rude and uncivilized, but simply 'foreign folk.' Diodorus Siculus ([Act 28:12](#)) says that it was a colony of the Phoenicians and so their language was Punic (Page). The word originally meant an uncouth repetition (*barbar*) not understood by others ([1Co 14:11](#)). In [Col 3:11](#) Paul couples it with Scythian as certainly not Christian” [*Robertson’s Word Pictures*].
02. **28:4... though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live**—“ASV, here for VENGEANCE, has **Justice**, whom these barbarians considered to be the daughter of the mythological god, Zeus.
03. **28:5... And he shook off the beast into the fire**—“People who are impressed with efforts to impose humane methods of killing rattlesnakes in Texas should take note of this. Burning the viper alive appeared to Paul as a suitable form of extermination; and none of the people who had to contend with such reptiles complained of it” [Coffman].
04. **28:14... And landing at Syracuse ... and came to Rhegium ... and we came the next day to Puteoli**—“Syracuse (*surakousas*) was a celebrated city of Sicily, something less than 100 miles from Malta. ... Rhegium (*rhegion*)-now Reggio-was a city on the southwest extremity of Italy, not far from the mouth of the Straits of Massena. After a day the wind became favorable for the ship while they were at Rhegium, so they made good time on the voyage up to Puteoli, some 180 miles north - making that long trip in one day, evidently ” [Harold Littrell, *A Commentary on the Book of Acts*, p. 357].
05. **28:15... ..he thanked God and took courage**—“The two places here mentioned were about ten miles apart, and it was doubtless two different companies who met them, having left Rome at different times. One party had come about forty miles, to Appii Forum, and the other about thirty, to the places called Tres Tabernæ, or Three Taverns. Such a mark of respect extended to him in his bonds was highly gratifying, and no wonder that he 'thanked God and took courage'” [J.W. McGarvey].
06. **28:17... after three days Paul called the chief of the Jews together**—“He probably had two objects in this: one was to vindicate himself from the suspicion of crime, or to convince them that the charges alleged against him were false; and the other, to explain to them the gospel of Christ. In accordance with his custom everywhere, he seized the earliest opportunity of making the gospel known to his own countrymen; and he naturally supposed that charges highly unfavorable to his character had been sent forward against him to the Jews at Rome by those in Judea” [*Barnes’ Notes*].
07. **28:22... But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest**—“...what are thy sentiments, views, etc. The apparent freedom from prejudice here expressed may have arisen from a prudent desire to avoid endangering a repetition of those dissensions about Christianity to which, probably, Suetonius alludes, and which had led to the expulsion of the Jews under Claudius” [JFB Commentary].
08. **28:31... Preaching the kingdom of God**—“Like all conservative scholars, we think that From 62 to 65 A.D., Paul was a free man, visiting Crete and points around the Aegean Sea (Titus 1:5; 2 Tim. 4:13,20), possibly even fulfilling his desire to go to Spain” [Coffman].

**II. Chronology.**

**BIBLE PERIOD: The Period of the Church.**

**III. Summary.**

The shipwrecked passengers and crew were all saved alive, fulfilling Paul's prophecy made at a moment when all hope had perished. The population of Malta aided in the rescue, building a fire and 'receiving' them kindly. Paul was bitten by a snake (Acts 28:1-6). Hospitality was extended to the victims of shipwreck by the first man of the island; and Paul wrought many cures of the sick and suffering of Malta (Acts 28:7-10). The voyage to Rome was continued after three months, ending very shortly at Puteoli, terminal port of the grain ship; and, thence by land, Paul soon arrived in Rome, being greeted by brethren on the way (Acts 28:11-16). As always, Paul sought and obtained first an interview with Jewish leaders who set a day to hear him a week later (Acts 28:17-22). The Jews of Rome, as invariably throughout Paul's ministry, rejected Christ, despite the fact that some believed (Acts 28:23-28). The Book of Acts is concluded by a brief summary of the two whole years of Paul's imprisonment; and the curtain rings down with Paul still in prison, because, when Luke wrote, the apostle's release, although pending, had not yet occurred (Acts 28:30-31) [Coffman].

**IV. Outline.**

01. Kindness of barbarians (Acts 28:1-2).
02. Paul is bitten by a viper (3).
03. Paul is thought to be an escaped murderer (4).
04. Paul is thought to be a "god" (5-6).
05. Paul and his companions are entertained (7).
06. The father of Publius is healed (8).
07. Many diseased persons of the island are cured (9).
08. Paul is honored and presented supplies for the continued voyage (10).
09. After 3 months they sailed from Melita (11).
10. Intermediate stops at Syracuse, Rhegium, and Puteoli (12-13).
11. Brethren meet Paul at Puteoli, the Appii Forum, and the Three Taverns (14-15).
12. Paul's arrival in Rome (16).
13. The Roman Jews are called together by Paul to explain his presence there (17-22).
14. Paul's preaching and reactions to it (23-25).
15. These Jews are a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy (26-27).
16. Salvation is sent to the Gentiles (28-29).
17. Paul lived in his own hired house and preached (30-31).

**V. Questions.****True or False**

01. \_\_\_\_\_ Paul spent at least two years in Rome.
02. \_\_\_\_\_ The barbarians of Melita were unkind to Paul.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ The Jews of Rome had been warned previously of Paul's arrival.
04. \_\_\_\_\_ Paul's stay at Melita lasted only a couple of days.
05. \_\_\_\_\_ There were brethren near Rome who encouraged Paul.

**Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)**

06. \_\_\_\_\_ What kind of weather greeted Paul and his company on the island of Melita: (a) sunny and mild; (b) cold and rainy; (c) it isn't revealed.
07. \_\_\_\_\_ **THEY WILL HEAR IT** is a reference to: (a) the scattered Jews; (b) the Gentiles; (c) all men.

08. \_\_\_\_\_ The things Paul needed to continue his journey to Rome were acquired by: (a) buying them; (b) the centurion seizing them; (c) gift from the people of Melita.
09. \_\_\_\_\_ At what place does Paul first find fellow Christians: (a) Puteoli; (b) Rhegium; (c) Melita; (d) the Three Taverns.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ How long was Paul at Puteoli: (a) two days; (b) two weeks; (c) seven days.

**Fill in the Blanks**

11. The opinion of the people of Melita regarding Paul changed from thinking he was a \_\_\_\_\_ to thinking he was a \_\_\_\_\_.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ is the manner in which Paul preached Christ at Rome.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ is an unusual phrase found in Acts 28 (KJV), which simply means “circled around,” or “made a circuit.”
14. **...because that for the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ I am bound with this chain.**
15. **...the \_\_\_\_\_ delivered the prisoners to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_: but Paul was suffered to \_\_\_\_\_ by himself with a \_\_\_\_\_ that kept him.**

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Answers will be found on next week's handout*

**ANSWERS to Acts 27 Questions...** [(1) False, Acts 27:37; (2) True, Acts 27:3; (3) False, Acts 27:34-36; (4) False, Acts 27:14; (5) True, Acts 27:21; (6) b, Acts 27:7; (7) b, Acts 27:15; (8) c, Acts 27:33; (9) b, Acts 27:27; (10) b, Acts 27:22; (11) all, them, sail, escaped, all, land, Acts 27:24, 44; (12) Myra, Lycia, Acts 27:5-6; (13) sun, stars, tempest, hope, saved, Acts 27:20; (14) Paul, master, owner, Acts 27:11; (15) fifteen, wished, day, Acts 27:28-29.]

## VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **AND HE SHOOK OFF THE BEAST INTO THE FIRE, AND FELT NO HARM** (Acts 28:5). *We have here the fulfillment of a New Testament prophecy.* Jesus promised that this very thing would happen. **And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; THEY SHALL TAKE UP SERPENTS; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover** (Mark 16:17-18). It is a terrible shame that Satan and his angels have been successful in spreading the false idea that these miraculous signs are for believers today and as a result men have DIED in the attempt to show that they also could pick up serpents and it not hurt them. However, that very thing has happened in various pentecostal snake-handling services.
2. **...THEY CHANGED THEIR MINDS, AND SAID THAT HE WAS A GOD** (Acts 28:6). *A clear illustration of how EVIDENCE can change the minds of honest people.* At first the people at Melita thought Paul must surely have been a murderer who had escaped the shipwreck, but would now be condemned to death by snakebite. However, they saw a miraculous demonstration and their minds were changed. While it is not recorded, surely during the three month stay on this island (v. 11), Paul would have had opportunity to teach and to correct the faulty conclusion that Paul was a “god,” and to convert some of them. The further miracles mentioned in verses 8-9 would have most likely been followed up by Paul’s preaching the gospel to them.

3. **WHERE WE FOUND BRETHREN, AND WERE DESIRED TO TARRY WITH THEM SEVEN DAYS...** (Acts 28:14). *The fellowship of brethren is a wonderful blessing of being IN CHRIST—out of it comes great hospitality.*
4. **...WHOM WHEN PAUL SAW, HE THANKED GOD, AND TOOK COURAGE** (Acts 28:15). *Thankfulness and encouragement are two great blessings of Christian fellowship.* Paul experienced it here as he drew nearer to Rome and we ought likewise to appreciate the blessings of fellowship of our brothers and sisters in Christ!
5. **...PAUL CALLED THE CHIEF OF THE JEWS TOGETHER: AND WHEN THEY WERE COME TOGETHER HE SAID UNTO THEM...** (Acts 28:17). *Paul's deep love for the Jews is still alive in Rome—his example of loving the lost ought to serve as a model to us.* Cf., Rom 10:1-3.
6. **BUT WE DESIRE TO HEAR OF THEE WHAT THOU THINKEST: FOR AS CONCERNING THIS SECT, WE KNOW THAT EVERY WHERE IT IS SPOKEN AGAINST** (Acts 28:22). *As it was at Rome, so it is today, the Lord's church is MISUNDERSTOOD.* If it is possible to get people honestly to examine the Scriptures—to GO BACK TO THE BIBLE, it can be demonstrated that what they have heard about the church is FALSE! Our challenge is to help people have a correct understanding of the church that you read about in the Bible and to be that church before them.
7. **AND SOME BELIEVED THE THINGS WHICH WERE SPOKEN, AND SOME BELIEVED NOT** (Acts 28:24). *The results Paul had surely must be used as a source of encouragement to us!* Even an inspired apostle with the education and training of Paul was not successful in converting every person he taught. We must not expect that everyone with whom we study will believe the truth.
8. **WELL SPAKE THE HOLY GHOST BY ESAIAS THE PROPHET** (Acts 28:25). *A very obvious reference to inspiration.* The Bible is a different book! It is the record of words spoken by the Holy Spirit through men.
9. **FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE IS WAXED GROSS...** (Acts 28:27). *Paul's heart is obviously broken by the rejection of the gospel by the Jews, however, he cannot and will not change the message but will go to those who will hear.*
10. **...WITH ALL CONFIDENCE** (Acts 28:31). *The kind of preaching done by Paul is the kind of preaching needed today!*

**VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.**

A A W F H R I E H J L C M B V B H X J U  
 I S V H S H E I E M K G N O H A R M V H  
 P M D E D W N H S U Z I M X V A D D N A  
 A P A A I U O H H V C Q N U S O F E R P  
 U Y Q L S Z D E O I G H R D H C L U M W  
 L N O E E Y O W O P R I A A N P S E Z U  
 H T F D A D U A K E X U P N O E M W R H  
 A C Q H S W B S O R E H O E G O S Y E E  
 D R G E E O T A F M H E P P R E T S T C  
 G E B B S C U G F U J S P O L T D M I V  
 A R V D C B B O F D U R T A F O G J V I  
 T E I R R X I D E O M E T H T T D O S K  
 H D O P W R C P R M M I K C B E O R C X  
 E R V R Y H A A S A L T M R N D S E F Y  
 R U J D Z C B H C E B C W E I U S O S C  
 E M R A S R I E M X N I T A I K L X J J  
 D A M E A B W W T E X S S L C M D X K F  
 U P C B Q Y O I L F A D B I E R Z Q R O  
 O N H I S H A N D F N U T C T D G W S L  
 Z E B E A J K J C A P S L N L R V D R L

*[The words (or word locaters) listed below are to be found in the text of our lesson. They also are found in the puzzle above. This is just one more way to reinforce what you have studied from the text. Why not read the whole verse where the word is found one more time as you do the puzzle? Thank you for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. Let's desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow (1 Pet 2:2). DRL]*

**Acts 28**

escaped, 1	a murderer, 4
Melita, 1	he shook off, 5
barbarous people, 2	no harm, 5
kindness, 2	changed, 6
Paul had gathered, 3	and said, 6
sticks, 3	he was a god, 6
viper, 3	Publius, 7
fastened, 3	diseases, 9
on his hand, 3	healed, 9
No doubt, 4	we came to Rome, 16