

ACTS CH 28 — PAUL ARRIVES IN ROME

28:1-6

- “The Maltese were of Phoenician descent. Roman citizens and retired soldiers lived [on Malta], the island was not considered culturally primitive.”
- “The Greek word used here, barbaros, implies the local inhabitants were considered foreign by the Roman Empire and did not speak the languages or share the customs of either Greeks or Romans.” “Anyone who did not speak Greek was called a ‘barbarian’.”
- Justice — “was a goddess who executed the will of Fortune or the Fates.”
- As God protected Paul from so many other calamities, so too God has protected him from this one.

28:8-15

- “The “Twin Brothers” were Castor and Pollux (Gemini), the patrons of sailors”
- The fact that Paul had connections in Rome shouldn’t be surprising, as he had already written the book of Romans by this point.
- “In answer to the question of how it is that the centurion would have allowed Paul to stay with the believers in Puteoli for seven days, when one recounts how Paul helped the centurion at several key junctures and proved himself a reliable and trustworthy person, it is not surprising at all. The centurion probably had business to attend to in the area, perhaps related to the journey itself and what had happened along the way.” And it can be assumed that at least one soldier accompanied him at all times...just in case.
- “the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns, both small towns along the Appian Way on the way to Rome. The Appius Forum was about 43 miles and Three Taverns 33 miles south of Rome.”

28:24-31

- Here Paul quotes from Isaiah 6:9-10
- “At his own expense”. Ways he could have done this — we know that he was a tent maker (Acts 18:3). And we know that he received monetary help from churches (2 Cor 11:8 and Phil 4:14-18). It’s probable that he paid rent by one or both of these means.

- “At the end of two years, if no accusers had arrived and no charges had been sent against him, [prisoners] would normally be automatically released.” One of two things likely happened then:
 - 1) Paul did stand trial and was acquitted
 - 2) Paul did not stand trial due to a lack of accusers, and was acquitted
- “Traditionally, this two-year period is regarded as the setting for the prison letters—Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.”

Extra-Biblical Sources on Paul’s final Years

- It’s probable “that he possibly traveled to Spain as he had hoped (Rom 15:24, 28); that he returned to the east, visiting Crete (Ti 1:5), Ephesus and Macedonia (1 Tm 1:3), Miletus and Corinth (2 Tm 4:20), Troas (2 Tm 4:13), and Nicopolis (Ti 3:12); that he wrote 1 Timothy and Titus during this period of freedom; that finally he was imprisoned again after AD 64 (the year of the great fire in Rome, which led to the Neronian persecution of Christians); at which point he wrote 2 Timothy during this second imprisonment in Rome.”
- “According to the early church fathers, Paul was eventually martyred in Rome under Nero (circa AD 64-67).” It’s held that he was “beheaded with the sword at the third milestone on the Ostian Way, at a place called Aque Salviae.” “Most likely, Paul was not yet 60 years old when he became a martyr for the faith.”

What will be your Legacy?

- John 3:36, 6:27, 12:25
- 1 Timothy 4:12; 6:20. 1 Timothy 1:6, 8; 2:2-3, 15; 4:6-7
- Philippians 3:16-18
- 2 Timothy 1:6-18; 4:10-12

Purpose of the Church:

- Matthew 24:14; 28:19, Acts 1:8
- Ephesians 4:11-16; 3:16-17; 4:1-5
- *Only One Life* by C.T. Studd