

Comments About Acts 28

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Acts. This week, we will talk about chapter 28.

May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Acts.

Overview of Paul's travels

As we entered into Acts 13, we began reading about Paul's missionary journeys. According to some Bible commentaries, the trips can be categorized in the following manner.

- First missionary journey—Acts 13:1 until Acts 14:28
- Second missionary journey—Acts 15:36 until Acts 18:22
- Third missionary journey—Acts 18:23 until Acts 21:16
- Trip to Rome—Acts 21:17 until Acts 28:31

Paul in Malta

Last week in Acts 27, we mentioned the calamities of the ship that was headed toward Rome with the apostle Paul.

The ship became shipwrecked (Acts 27:39-41) and the passengers swam safely to land (verse 44).

- The men discovered that they were on the island called Malta (Acts 28:1).
- When a snake bit Paul (verse 3), the natives first thought he was a murderer (verse 4) and then thought that he was a god (verses 5-6).
- A leader on the island (Publius) entertained the men (verse 7).
- When the father of Publius became sick, Paul laid hands on him and the man was healed (verse 8).
- Many sick people on the island came to Paul and were healed (verse 9).

Arrived in Rome

- After three months, the people sailed toward Rome (verses 11-15).

■ When they arrived at Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard (verse 16).

■ Paul explained to the leaders of the Jews why he was there (verses 17-20).

Acts 28:17-20—"Men and brethren, though I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans, who, when they had examined me, wanted to let me go, because there was no cause for putting me to death. But when the Jews spoke against it, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar, not that I had anything of which to accuse my nation. For this reason therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain."

■ The leaders mentioned that they had not heard evil against Paul, that they had heard about the sect and that they wanted to hear more (verses 21-22).

Acts 28:23—"So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening."

■ Paul paraphrased Isaiah 6:9-10 (verses 25-27).

■ Paul emphasized that the salvation of God was sent to the gentiles (verse 28).

■ When the Jews heard what Paul said, many of them departed from Paul and discussed the concept among themselves (verse 29).

Notice the message that Paul preached from his house arrest (verses 30-31).

Acts 28:30-31—"Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him."