

- Paul ends the third missionary journey in Jerusalem, delivering the gifts he had collected.
- He is arrested, and so begins a 4+ year imprisonment by the Roman government with ~2 years in Caesarea and ~2 years in Rome.
- Short outline of events in Jerusalem
 - Paul returns to Jerusalem, meets church there. *“In order to disarm a volatile situation, Paul agreed to submit to a ceremonial “cleansing” in the temple as was the custom for Jews who had traveled among the Gentile lands.” W. Jackson*
 - Jews from Asia start a riot, making false claims
 - Roman soldiers intervene, arrest Paul; he is allowed to address the mob
 - He is kept in custody overnight, and addresses Sanhedrin the next day; again breaks down into a riot, Paul kept in custody
 - A plot to kill him becomes known by his nephew; Romans send him to Caesarea
- Short outline of events in Caesarea - 2+ years
 - Paul’s friends allowed to visit and provide needs; may write some epistles from here (prison letters: Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon)
 - First appearance before Felix, Jewish accusers present
 - Second appearance before Felix, no Jews present
 - More appearances before Felix, hoping for a bribe. Felix is succeeded by Festus; Felix leaves Paul in prison.
 - First appearance before Festus, Jewish accusers present
 - Festus suggests Paul go to Jerusalem for trial; Paul refuses and appeals to Caesar
 - Second appearance before Festus, with Agrippa and Bernice present
 - Paul sent to Rome
- Short outline of events to and in Rome - 2+ years
 - Harrowing journey: - storms, shipwrecks, vipers, and more. *“This is the most remarkable account of ancient sea navigation in the annals of history.” W. Jackson*
 - In Rome, Paul’s friends allowed to visit and provide needs; writes some epistles from here (prison letters: Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon)
 - Meets with Jews in Rome, who have no knowledge of Paul; ultimately they reject the gospel in large part as others have; Paul says he will turn to the Gentiles
 - Book ends with Paul still in prison; we know that he was eventually released.

<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/144-pauls-two-year-roman-imprisonment>

Acts Lesson 12
Paul in Rome
Chapter 28

Text: Acts chapter 28

I. Questions for the Bible student

Pick a few for discussion.

1. Again Christianity is called a “sect” by the Jews. How do they describe it in 28:22? Why would they characterize it like they do?
2. Paul quotes Isaiah 6:9-10 in speaking to the Jews. Jesus quoted this same passage in Matthew 13:14-15/Mark 4:12 when explaining why He spoke in parables. How has the situation changed in the ~30 years between the statements? How is the situation the same?
3. Though Isaiah was the agent through which the message was delivered, Who does Paul say actually spoke the prophecy? What would we call this?
4. After giving so many details about the travel to Rome, the ministry in Rome receives very little attention...two summary verses (28:30-31). Why would Luke end the book this way? He appears to know the end of the story (“dwelt 2 whole years), so why not include it? (This is actually a much debated and there are multiple theories).
5. As you look at verse 28:28, is Luke again foreshadowing? Is Paul prophesying? Was Paul correct?
6. Back in Acts 23:11, Jesus appeared to Paul and promised that Paul would bear witness for Him in Rome also. At the time, Paul was in Roman custody in Jerusalem. Discuss the unexpected way in which Jesus brought that about. How firm was Paul’s conviction during the journey that he would reach Rome? (Hint: see Acts 27:25.) How should this story strengthen our faith?
7. What happened just before Paul reached Rome that caused him to thank God and take courage? (28:15) Are you surprised to read of Paul needing to take courage? How valuable is Christian fellowship today?

II Quick snapshot of where we are

See outline above.

Timeline of Paul's life.

III. Paul's message to the Jews in Rome

The blessing of fellowship, 28:15

For the hope of Israel, 28:20

Solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, 28:23

IV. A few other thoughts

Paul's attitude during imprisonment - Philippians 1, Colossians 4:2-4, Ephesians 6:18-20, Philemon 8-14

He was ~30 when converted, had about ~30 years of ministry; he is in the last 8-10 years of his life when Acts ends

Reasoning and persuading. (R: 17:2, 17:17, 18:4, 18:19, 19:9, 24:25, 26:25) (P: 13:43, 17:4, 18:4, 19:8, 26:28, 28:23-24)

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