

Lesson 12
The Book of Acts

Lesson 12.) Acts 27-28: Paul's voyage to and captivity in Rome

1.) (Acts 27) Paul sails for Rome.

Who accompanies Paul on his journey to Rome?

Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, Luke.

Act 27:1-2 And when it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan Cohort named Julius. And embarking in a ship of Adramyttium, which was about to sail to the ports along the coast of Asia, we put to sea, accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica.

Col 4:10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions--if he comes to you, welcome him),

What time of the year does the journey take place?

The fast would have been the day of atonement around Septemeber to October. It was, therefore, the time of the autumnal equinox, and when the navigation of the Mediterranean was esteemed to be particularly dangerous

Act 27:9 Since much time had passed, and the voyage was now dangerous because even the Fast was already over, Paul advised them,

What advice does Paul give the ships captain that is ignored?

Not to sail as the voyage will result in injury and much loss.

Act 27:9-11 Since much time had passed, and the voyage was now dangerous because even the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, saying, "Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives." But the centurion paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul said.

What is his basis for this? His history.

2Co 11:23- 25 Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one--I am talking like a madman--with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea;

What word of encouragement does Paul offer the ship's crew? God told them no one would be lost.

Act 27:21-25 Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with

Lesson 12
The Book of Acts

you.' So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.

How many men were involved in the shipwreck? 276

Act 27:37 (We were in all 276 persons in the ship.)

2.) (Acts 28:1-10) Paul's shipwreck on Malta

What Island did they safely land on? Malta

Act 28:1 After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the island was called Malta.

What miracle took place. Paul picks up a poisonous snake and is unaffected.

Act 28:3-6 When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand. When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live." He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw no misfortune come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

What scripture does this confirm? Mark 16:18

Mar 16:18 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."

What was the net result? Even in adversity God works to His glory.

Act 28:8-9 It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. And Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him healed him. And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured.

3.) (Acts 28:11-31) Paul in Rome

How does Paul explain his presence in Rome to the Jewish leaders

there? That he delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.

Act 28:16-20 And when we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier that guarded him. After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews, and when they had gathered, he said to them, "Brothers, though I had 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. When they had examined me, they wished to set me at liberty, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. But because the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar--though I had no charge to bring against my nation. For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain."

Lesson 12

The Book of Acts

What was their response? They had no letter of warning against him.

Act 28:21-22 And they said to him, "We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken any evil about you. But we desire to hear from you what your views are, for with regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against."

What was the net result of Paul's presence in Rome? The kingdom was proclaimed in Rome.

Act 28:30-31 He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

Summary

God is true to His word

Our testimonies are a powerful tool for the gospel

The witness to the gospel calls for a response.

Witnesses must always maintain integrity before the world.

Christian witnesses continue's in spite of persecution the ministry that Christ "began"

Persecution should not hinder the message