

THE LIFE OF PAUL

LESSON XIV

PAUL GOES TO ROME PART II (Malta to Rome)

1. After reaching the safety of the Island, the party identified the islands. Where were they? Acts 28:1 **(Acts 28:1 - Now when they had escaped, they then found out that the island was called Malta. Older translations such as the KJV, call the island Melita.)**
2. How was the party treated by the inhabitants of the island? Acts 28:2 **(Acts 28:2 - And the natives showed us unusual kindness; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold.)**
3. What happened to Paul as he was gathering wood for the fire? Describe the events that followed. Acts 28:3-6 **(Acts 28:3-6 - But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand. So when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow to live." But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. However, they were expecting that he would swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had looked for a long time and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.)**
4. Who was responsible for the government rule on the island? Acts 28:7 **(Acts 28:7 - In that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days.)**
5. What did the governor of the island do for the shipwrecked party? Acts 28:7 **(Acts 28:7 - In that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days.)**
6. What was wrong with the island ruler's father and what did Paul do about it? Acts 28:8 **(Acts 28:8 - And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him.)**
7. What events followed Paul's treatment of Publius' father? Acts 28:9-10 **(Acts 28:9-10 - So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed. They also honored us in many ways; and when we departed, they provided such things as were necessary.)**
8. Do you think that the party landed on Malta by the providence of God? Do you think Paul preached the gospel while he was there? **Yes to both questions. I think Paul preached the gospel of Christ wherever he went. God probably wanted these particular people to hear the good news.**
9. How long was it before the party could depart from the island? What month would this be? What ship did they take? (read several translations) Acts 28:11; 27:9 **(Acts 28:11 - After three months we sailed in an Alexandrian ship whose figurehead was the Twin Brothers, which had wintered at the island.)** From Acts 27:9, we learn that the time of the party's departure from Cnidus was after the fast associated with the "day of

THE LIFE OF PAUL

atonement". This means that their arrival to Malta must have been around the month of October. Since they spent three months on the island, they must have set sail sometime around February. Both the KJV and the NIV translate the twin brothers as Castor & Pollux, the fabled twin sons of Jupiter and Leda. These brothers were considered as guardian divinities of sailors.

10. Where was the ship's first stop from Malta and how long did the party stay there? What important item did they pick up while they were in port, according to the KJV translation? Acts 28:12-13 (**Acts 28:12-13 - And landing at Syracuse, we stayed three days. From there we circled round and reached Rhegium. And after one day the south wind blew; and the next day we came to Puteoli,**) The KJV translated the Greek word "perierchomai" as "fetches a compass". The other translations translated the word "circle around".
11. Where did the party go next? At this time they found a favorable wind and were able to make the next port. What place was this and who do they find there? Acts 28:13 (**Acts 28:13-14 - And from thence we fetched a compass, and came to Rhegium: and after one day the south wind blew, and we came the next day to Puteoli: Where we found brethren, and were desired to tarry with them seven days: and so we went toward Rome.**) Puteoli is the only city outside of Rome where we know that the New Testament church had established a congregation in Italy. (Pew-tea-oh-li)
12. How much time was spent in this port? Why did they stay there? Why do you think the centurion, Julius, allowed this? They were there for seven days, because the brethren wanted them to stay with them for a while. Evidently Julius had gained considerable respect for Paul during the journey.
13. What evidence tells us that the party left the ship at Puteoli? Acts 28:14-15 (**Acts 28:14-15 - where we found brethren, and were invited to stay with them seven days. And so we went toward Rome. And from there, when the brethren heard about us, they came to meet us as far as Appii Forum and Three Inns. When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.**) The fact that the party could determine their time of departure indicates that they were not bound to a ship's schedule for sailing conditions. Secondly, their route indicates an inland travel to Appii Forum and Three Inns, since brethren from Rome came out to meet them.
14. How far are Appii Forum and Three Inns from Rome? (consult your maps) About 43 and 33 miles respectively.
15. What effect did finding brethren from Rome have on Paul? Acts 28:15 **When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.**
16. The centurion, Julius, took the prisoners to the captain of the guard, as soon as they had reached Rome. How was Paul treated? Acts 28:16 (**Acts 28:16 - Now when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard; but Paul was permitted to dwell by himself with the soldier who guarded him.**)
17. Paul waited three days before doing something. What did he do? Why do you think Paul took this action? Acts 28:17-20 (**Acts 28:17-20 - And it came to pass after three days that Paul called the leaders of the Jews together. So when they had come together, he said to them: "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**

THE LIFE OF PAUL

have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.") Paul called the chief Jews together so that they would know the total truth of why he was there. Perhaps he wanted to know what information had preceded his arrival and their attitude towards him.

18. How did the Jews reply to Paul's message? Acts 28:21-22 (**Acts 28:21-22 - Then they said to him, "We neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor have any of the brethren who came reported or spoken any evil of you. "But we desire to hear from you what you think; for concerning this sect, we know that it is spoken against everywhere."**)
19. A day was set for Paul to speak to them. What was the result of this event? Acts 28:23-29 (**Acts 28:23-29 - 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. And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved. So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, "saying, 'Go to this people and say: "Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; and seeing you will see, and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them." ' "Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!" And when he had said these words, the Jews departed and had a great dispute among themselves.**)
20. What effect did Paul's quotation of Isaiah 6:9-10 have upon the Jews? Acts 28:25 & 29 They left the assembly and disputed the matter among themselves.
21. How long did Paul remain in Rome as a prisoner? What did he do during this time? Acts 28:30-31 (**Acts 28:30-31 - For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.**)

Note: It is debated among scholars whether Paul's own rented house was a house that he paid for or a house of the brethren that Paul was allowed, by the Roman government, to live in under custody. Perhaps people like Luke or Aquila or even money from Philippi could have provided sufficient financial means to rent a house.

22. How much was Paul hindered from preaching the gospel, while in prison? Paul preached boldly without any hindrance.

Note: Some scholars believe that Paul was never acquitted from his first imprisonment. Our next lesson will examine this question. Did Paul ever reach Spain? When did Paul die and how did he die? Was he imprisoned a second time? Was the epistle commonly known as "Ephesians" actually written to the Ephesians?