

Acts 28:11-31 **Paul Arrives in Rome – His Ministry There**

Malta to Syracuse Sicily – On To Rome

11 After three months we sailed in an Alexandrian ship whose figurehead was the Twin Brothers, which had wintered at the island. 12 And landing at Syracuse, we stayed three days. 13 From there we circled round and reached Rhegium. And after one day the south wind blew; and the next day we came to Puteoli, 14 where we found brethren, and were invited to stay with them seven days. And so we went toward Rome. 15 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.

At Rome

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.

Paul contacted the Jews at Rome

17 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, 18 who, when they had examined me, wanted to let me go, because there was no cause for putting me to death. 19 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. 20 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."

21 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. 22 But we desire to hear from you what you think; for concerning this sect, we know that it is spoken against everywhere."

The Jews grant Paul a hearing

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.

24 And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved. 25 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, 26 saying,

'Go to this people and say:

"Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand;

And seeing you will see, and not perceive;

27 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." '

28 "Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!"

29 And when he had said these words, the Jews departed and had a great dispute among themselves.

Two Years in Paul's Own Rented House

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

Facts Revealed:

- ✚ **After three months** we sailed in an Alexandrian ship whose figurehead was the Twin Brothers, which had wintered at the island. 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**, 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. [Acts 28:11-15]
- ✧ After they had been on Malta three months for the winter, they sailed Northeast in an Alexandrian ship which had wintered at Malta, and landed at Syracuse Sicily.
- ✧ **Syracuse** was a prominent Seaport city on the East coast of Sicily.
- ✧ **Rhegium** was a seaport city on the west coast of Italy across the Strait of Messina from the island of Sicily.
- ✧ **Puteoli** was a seaport city on the west shore of the Bay of Naples where the great grain ships from Alexandria were unloaded. Paul and company found Christian brethren at Puteoli Italy and stayed with them 7 days.
- ✧ From Puteoli, they traveled overland toward Rome and came to **Appii Forum and Three Inns** where they were met by believers from Rome who had heard of their approach had come to meet them.
- ✧ **Appii Forum** was a market town about 40 miles from Rome on the Appian Way the road from Rome to the bay of Naples.
- ✧ **Three Inns** was a town on the Appian Way about 33 miles from Rome where the Christians from Rome met them and encouraged them.

At Rome

- ✚ 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**. [Acts 28:16]

Paul contacted the Jews at Rome

- ✚ After being in Rome for 3 days, Paul sent to the Synagogue of Rome and called for the Jewish leaders to come together. [Acts 28:17]
- ✚ Paul stated his case before the Jews: [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.
 - ✧ The Romans examined me and wanted to let me go because there was no cause for putting me to death.
 - ✧ When the Jews spoke against my release, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar, though I had nothing of which to accuse my nation.
 - ✧ I have called for you, to see you and to speak with you.

- ✧ Because of the Hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.
- ✚ 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.**" [Acts 28:21-22]

The Jews grant Paul a hearing [Acts 28:23-29]

- ✚ The Jews appointed a day to hear Paul about the sect they had heard much spoken against.
- ✚ On the appointed day, many of the Jews came to Paul at his lodging
- ✚ Paul explained and solemnly testifies of the **Kingdom of God**.
 - ✧ As was Paul's custom, he reasoned from the basis of the Jewish Law of Moses and their Prophets. [Acts 17:2, 17, 18:4, 19, 19:8-9]
 - ✧ They listened from morning to evening.
- ✚ Some were persuaded by the evidence, others did not believe as has been common when testifying to Jews about the Kingdom of God and Jesus the Messiah.
- ✚ When Paul saw that the Jews could not agree among themselves, he said:
 - ✧ "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." ' [Isaiah 6:9-10, Acts 28:26-27]

- ✧ "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.

Two Years in Paul's Own Rented House

- ✚ 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. [Acts 28:30-31]