



PAUL REACHES ROME

Acts 28

“Paul Reaches Rome” (Acts 28:1–31)(7:17.22)

Acts 28:1–31 (NIV84) *Ashore on Malta*

28 Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was

called Malta. ² The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. ³ Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. ⁴ When the islanders saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other, “This man must be a murderer; for though he escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live.” ⁵ But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects. ⁶ The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead, but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god.

⁷ There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and for three days entertained us hospitably. ⁸ His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. ⁹ When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured. ¹⁰ They honored us in many ways and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed.

Arrival at Rome

¹¹ After three months we put out to sea in a ship that had wintered in the island. It was an Alexandrian ship with the figurehead of the twin gods Castor and Pollux. ¹² We put in at Syracuse and stayed there three days. ¹³ From there we set sail and arrived at Rhegium. The next day the south wind came up, and on the following day we reached Puteoli. ¹⁴ There we found some brothers who invited us to spend a week with them. And so we came to Rome. ¹⁵ The brothers there had heard that we were coming, and they traveled as far as the Forum of Appius and the Three Taverns to meet us. At the sight of these men Paul thanked God and was encouraged. ¹⁶ When we got to Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with a soldier to guard him.

Paul Preaches at Rome Under Guard

¹⁷ Three days later he called together the leaders of the Jews. When they had assembled, Paul said to them: "My brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or against the customs of our ancestors, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. ¹⁸ They examined me and wanted to release me, because I was not guilty of any crime deserving death. ¹⁹ But when the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar—not that I had any charge to bring against my own people. ²⁰ For this reason I have asked to see you and talk with you. It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain."

²¹ They replied, "We have not received any letters from Judea concerning you, and none of the brothers who have come from there has reported or said anything bad about you. ²² But we want to hear what your views are, for we know that people everywhere are talking against this sect."

²³ They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. From morning till evening he explained and declared to them the kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. ²⁴ Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. ²⁵ They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: "The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your forefathers when he said through Isaiah the prophet:

²⁶ " 'Go to this people and say,
"You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving."

²⁷ For this people's heart has become calloused;
they hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts

and turn, and I would heal them.'

²⁸ “Therefore I want you to know that God’s salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!”

³⁰ For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. ³¹ Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of God for the people of God.

LET US PRAY.

Title: **“Paul Reaches Rome”**

INTRODUCTION:

Let me begin at the end of this scripture. What was the outcome of the charges against Paul? Was he found innocent and released? Did he ever get to Spain? Why was he arrested a second time later and eventually executed?

The author of our text, Dr. Luke, wrote the Gospel of Luke and this Book of Acts. He was a close personal friend of Paul’s. Go back and read chapters 27 and 28 and the narrator, Dr. Luke, uses the pronouns we and us. He was there with Paul on the journey to Rome. He literally went through hell and high water with the Apostle Paul. And yet, Luke kind of leaves us hanging.

But, that kind of thinking misses the point. This wasn’t about Paul. Yes, Paul was a powerful instrument used by God Almighty. Paul wrote a large portion of our New Testament and planted many churches. But, Paul was only a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dr. Luke begins the Book of Acts thusly: Acts 1:1–3 (NIV84)

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days **and spoke about the kingdom of God.**

Dr. Luke ends the Book of Acts thusly: Boldly and without hindrance he [Paul] preached **the kingdom of God** and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

In this context, our ending makes sense. The focus is not on Paul. Rather, the focus is on the kingdom of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

BODY:



- >No pity party
- >Paul shakes off the viper into the fire
- >That is Satan's destination also



- >ministry of healing (hospitals)
- >reaching people through caring



>leaving Malta

>there were already Christians in Italy

>Interesting NOTE: Paul went to the capitol of the worldly kingdom, Rome, to preach about

the eternal kingdom, the kingdom of God.

>Paul Giglio video on Acts last two chapters shared, "Detours are for someone else's deliverance!"



>how long before Paul went to work?

>did the guard hold Paul back?

>Paul begin with the same approach as usual: he went to the Jews first. Why?

>The Prison Epistles are those Paul wrote to the churches in Ephesus, Philippi, and Colossae, and to a friend named Philemon.



This is not my original work.

Note that this would only be a brief version of Paul's arguments. He spoke to the Jews from morning till evening.

Psalm 14:3 (NIV84)

All have turned aside,
they have together become corrupt;
there is no one who does good,
not even one.

Psalm 51:5 (NIV84)

Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother
conceived me.

Psalm 53:6 (NIV84)

Oh, that salvation for Israel
would come out of Zion!
When God restores
the fortunes of his people,
let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!

THE JERUSALEM ROAD OF SALVATION

Good deeds cannot purify

Isaiah 64:6 (NIV84)

All of us have become
like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous acts
are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf,
and like the wind
our sins sweep us away.

THE JERUSALEM ROAD OF SALVATION

God requires a blood sacrifice

Leviticus 17:11 (NIV84)

For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.

THE JERUSALEM ROAD OF SALVATION

Applying the blood of the Messiah

Exodus 12:21–23 (NIV84)

Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. Not one of you shall go out the door of his house until morning.

Exodus 12:21–23 (NIV84)

When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

Leviticus 16:15–19 (NIV84)

“He shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people and take its blood behind the curtain and do with it as he did with the bull’s blood: He shall sprinkle it on the atonement cover and in front of it. In this way he will make atonement for the Most Holy Place because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever their sins have been.

Leviticus 16:15–19 (NIV84)

He is to do the same for the Tent of Meeting, which is among them in the midst of their uncleanness. No one is to be in the Tent of Meeting from the time Aaron goes in to make atonement in the Most Holy Place until he comes out, having made atonement for himself, his household and the whole community of Israel.

Leviticus 16:15–19 (NIV84)

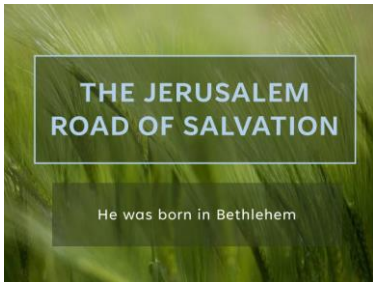
“Then he shall come out to the altar that is before the LORD and make atonement for it. He shall take some of the bull’s blood and some of the goat’s blood and put it on all the horns of the altar. He shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times to cleanse it and to consecrate it from the uncleanness of the Israelites.

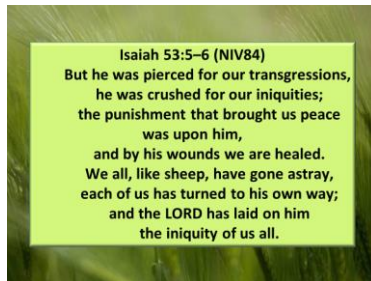
THE JERUSALEM ROAD OF SALVATION

There is safety and refuge in God’s
Messiah – Who is this Messiah?

THE JERUSALEM ROAD OF SALVATION

He was born of a virgin





> Daniel 12:2 and Ezekiel's 37th chapter on the valley of dry bones speak about the promise of the resurrection of the dead.

Not let us explore human reception of the gospel.

Whether the Word Be Preached or Read

by Charles Wesley

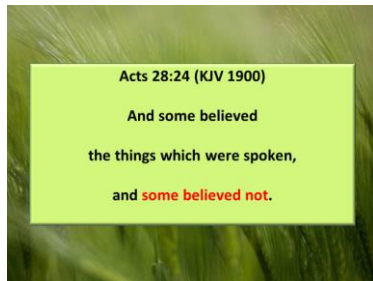
Whether the Word be preached or read,
no saving benefit I gain
from empty sounds or letters dead;
unprofitable all and vain,
unless by faith thy word I hear
and see its heavenly character.

Unmixed with faith, the Scripture gives
no comfort, life, or light to see,
but me in darker darkness leaves,

implunged in deeper misery,
overwhelmed with nature's sorest ills.
The Spirit saves, the letter kills.

If God enlighten through his Word,
I shall my kind Enlightener bless;
but void and naked of my Lord,
what are all verbal promises?
Nothing to me, till faith divine
inspire, inspeak, and make them mine.

Jesus, the appropriating grace
'tis thine on sinners to bestow.
Open mine eyes to see thy face,
open my heart thyself to know.
And then I through thy Word obtain
sure present, and eternal gain.



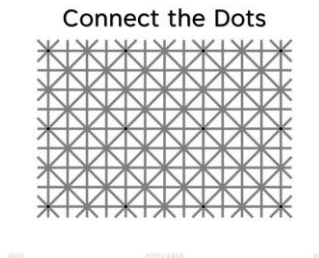
CONCLUSION:

Some believed and some believed NOT. That is the way it always was with the presentation of the gospel. And, that is the way it is today. Some will believe. Some refuse to believe. Why? Because believing the truth of God's word requires a response. It requires a complete recentering of our lives. Anything less is not a life-giving gospel.

Many times we hear the warning against eyes that will not see and ears that will not hear. Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Daniel complain about those that refuse to respond to God's warnings. Then again in Isaiah chapter 6, the

prophet warns the people. Then Jesus quotes Isaiah in the gospels, and Paul quotes them both.

This optical illusion is going viral on the Internet.



[Here's why you can't see all twelve black dots in this optical illusion - The Verge](#)

To be clear, there really are 12 black dots in the image. But ([most](#)) people can't see all 12 dots at the same time, which [is driving people nuts](#).

"They think, 'It's an existential crisis,'" says [Derek Arnold](#), a vision scientist at the University of Queensland in Australia. "'How can I ever know what the truth is?'" But, he adds, scientists who study the visual system know that **perception doesn't always equal reality**.

In this optical illusion, the black dot in the center of your vision should always appear. But the black dots around it seem to appear and disappear. That's because humans have pretty bad peripheral vision. If you focus on a word in the center of this line you'll probably see it clearly. But if you try to read the words at either end without moving your eyes, they most likely look blurry. As a result, the brain has to make its best guess about what's most likely to be going on in the fuzzy periphery — and fill in the mental image accordingly.

I ask you, "On what do you focus?" But, there is a better question: "On Whom do you focus?" Paul focused on the God whose I am and Whom I serve. How about you?

Amen and amen. Let us pray.