

**Acts 28:1-16**  
**Paul continues his journey to Rome**

Act 28:16 After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the island was called **Malta**. 2 The **native people** showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain and was cold. 3 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. 4 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.” 5 He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. 6 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.

7 Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, named **Publius**, who received us and entertained us hospitably for three days. 8 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. 9 And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured. 10 They also honored us greatly, and when we were about to sail, they put on board whatever we needed.

11 ¶ After three months we set sail in a ship that had wintered in the island, a ship of **Alexandria**, with the **twin gods** as a figurehead. 12 Putting in at **Syracuse**, we stayed there for three days. 13 And from there we made a circuit and arrived at **Rhegium**. And after one day a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to **Puteoli**. 14 There we found brothers and were invited to stay with them for seven days. And so we came to **Rome**. 15 And the brothers there, when they heard about us, came as far as the **Forum of Appius** and **Three Taverns** to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage. 16 And when we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier that guarded him. –ESV

v16 And when we came to Rome, **the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard**: but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him. –AV, IGNT, NKJV, TR, YLT

**Captain of the Guard**- G4759 στρατοπεδάρχης stratopedarches strat-op-ed-ar'-khace  
AV-captain of the guard 1x

1) the commander of a camp and army, a military tribune

2) Praetorian prefect, commander of the praetorian cohorts, captain of the Roman emperor's body guard

There were two praetorian prefects, to whose custody prisoners sent bound to the emperor were consigned.

**the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard;** or general of the army; or, as some think, the governor of the "praetorian" band of soldiers, who attended the emperor as his guards: his name is thought to have been **Burrhus Afranius**; to him Julius the centurion delivered all the prisoners he brought from Caesarea, excepting Paul, to be disposed of by him, in the several prisons, or jails, to whom it belonged to take care of such persons: **this clause is wanting in the Alexandrian copy, and in the Vulgate Latin and Syriac versions [and other, older mss]**. --*John Gill*

Afranius Burrhus was a principal instrument in raising Nero to the throne; and had considerable influence in repressing many of the vicious inclinations of that bad prince. With many others, he was put to death by the inhuman Nero. Burrhus is praised by the historians for moderation and love of justice. His treatment of St. Paul is no mean proof of this. --*Calmet*.

#### **Places and times:**

- Melita (Malta)- 3 months stay during winter, 85 miles to ->
- Syracuse- 3 days stay, harbor in Sicily, 85 miles to ->
- Rhegium- 2 days travel, an Italian town situated on the Bruttian coast, just at the southern entrance of the Straits of Messina, 200 miles to ->
- Puteoli- 7 days stay, a city of Campania, Italy, situated on the Bay of Naples, 100 miles to ->
- Forum of Appius- a town in Italy, 43 miles (70 km) from Rome on the Appian Way, 10 miles to ->
- Three Taverns- the name of a halting place on the Appian way between Rome and the Market of Appius. It was 10 miles (16 km) from the latter place and 33 miles (50 km) to Rome.

#### **People and things:**

- Publius- the chief magistrate of the island of Melita v7

- Masthead of the Alexandrian ship- Twin gods (ESV, NLT); Dioskouroi (IGNT, YLT); Castor and Pollux (AV, NIV'84); Twin Brothers (HSCB, NKJV, RSV); Heavenly Twins (Message) v11
- Castor and Pollux- in Greek mythology were the twin sons of Jupiter (Zeus) and Leda, and were regarded as the tutelary divinities of sailors. Two stars in the Gemini constellation are named Castor and Pollux.

**Native people-** G915 βάρβαρος *barbaros bar'-bar-os*

AV-barbarian 5x, barbarous 1x

- 1) one whose speech is rude, rough and harsh
- 2) one who speaks a foreign or strange language which is not understood by another
- 3) used by the Greeks of any foreigner ignorant of the Greek language, whether mental or moral, with the added notion after the Persian war, of rudeness and brutality. The word is used in the N.T. without the idea of reproachfulness.

**Viper-** G2191 ἔχιδνα *echidna ekh'-id-nah*

AV-viper 5x

- 1) a viper, offspring of vipers
- 1a) addressed to cunning, malignant, wicked men

**Key events in vv1-16:**

- Landing on Malta having survived a shipwreck, with no loss of life (276). v1
- Paul miraculously survives a snake (viper) bite. vv3-6
- They meet Publius with whom they stayed three days. v7
- Paul heals Publius' father of dysentery. v8
- Paul heals "the rest of the people on the island who had diseases" v9
- **Miracle:** an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs --Merriam-Webster Dictionary
- **Miracle:** An event in the external world brought about by the immediate agency or the simple volition of God, operating without the use of means capable of being discerned by the senses, and designed to authenticate the divine commission of a religious teacher and the truth of his message. It is an occurrence at once above nature and above man. It shows the intervention of

a power that is not limited by the laws either of matter or of mind, a power interrupting the fixed laws which govern their movements, a supernatural power. --*Easton's Revised Bible Dictionary*

- Miracles in Scripture.
  - About 80 in the OT
  - About 40 (+ groupings) in the Gospels
  - About 20 (+9 groupings) in Acts
- After three months of winter they set sail, landing in Syracuse, Rhegium, and finally Puteoli. On making land in Puteoli they met up with brothers and stay with them for seven days, before going overland to Rome. vv11-14
- Paul, being a Roman Citizen, and at this time having broken no Roman law was allowed considerable freedom to continue in the ministry before his arraignment. v16

**Key:**

1. AV is KJV- Authorized Version or King James Version.
2. **BOLD** is for emphasis.
3. [Brackets] are my insertions.
4. ESV- English Standard Version.
5. \*Gxxxx is a reference to Strong's Concordance, Greek key.
6. \*Hxxxx is a reference to Strong's Concordance, Hebrew key.  
(A number with an "x" is the number of times that a Greek or Hebrew word is translated into a particular English word in the AV, e.g. 10x is ten times.)
7. HCSB- Holman Christian Standard Bible.
8. IGNT- Interlinear Greek New Testament.
9. LXX- Septuagint the Greek OT used in Jesus' day
10. Merrill F. Unger, "The New Unger's Bible Dictionary", Moody Press, Chicago, 1988.
11. Message- free-running paraphrase of the original languages.
12. NIV(84)- New International Version © 1984.
13. NKJV- New King James Version.
14. NT- New Testament.

15.OT- Old Testament.

16.TR- Textus Receptus (Greek).

17.YLT- Young's Literal Translation

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