

Wednesday, October 25, 2023
SHAKEN
PART 23: PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME

This evening, we will finish our study of Acts called, "Shaken". The last time we talked about Acts, Paul rejected the Roman governor Festus request to return to Jerusalem to stand trial. He appealed to Caesar. Since Paul has done nothing wrong, the governor is struggling to find charges to file against Paul. He asks King Agrippa to hear Paul and give his advice as to what to write to Caesar.

Paul gives his testimony before Agrippa and Festus. After asserting that Jesus is alive and has spoken to him, Festus accuses Paul of being insane. Paul says, "King Agrippa knows that what I am saying happened. Do you believe in the prophets, King? I know you do." Agrippa is shocked by this statement. Paul is seeking to win Agrippa to the Lord! Agrippa tells Festus that Paul is doing nothing that is breaking the law and would be set free if he had not appealed. Paul is given to the custody of a Roman centurion and sent to Rome.

[Acts 27:1-12 \(NIV\)](#)

It is late in the year. Winter has set in. Paul tells the centurion that the voyage will end in disaster, but the centurion listens to the ship owner and sails toward Crete to winter there.

[Acts 27:13-26 \(NIV\)](#)

The ship is caught in a windstorm called the Northeaster. This wind would blow the ship to the west. The storm batters the ship and crew for many days. The crew is scared and working round the clock – not eating anything. After quite an absence, Paul tells the crew to be encouraged because an angel has told him that Paul will make it to Rome and God will spare the crew. The ship will wreck on an island.

[Acts 27:27-44 \(NIV\)](#)

The crew have been in this storm for over two weeks. The sailors sense land is near. They let down the lifeboats to get off the ship but Paul tells the centurion that if the sailors leave the ship, they will not be saved. The centurion cuts the lifeboats adrift. At dawn, Paul tells the people to eat. They will all be saved. Paul prays openly over the food and all eat. The ship runs aground on a sandbar and begins to break apart in the storm. The soldiers want to save their own lives by not allowing any prisoner to escape. The centurion – wanting to save Paul –

forbids the execution and everyone swims and floats to shore. All are saved just as Paul prophesied.

Acts 28:1-10 (NIV)

The islanders receive the shipwrecked folks kindly. It is cold and wet. Paul gathers wood for the fire and is bitten by a viper hidden in the wood. The islanders believe that Paul must be a criminal because even though he has escaped the storm, justice will not allow him to live. But Paul is destined by God for Rome. He does not get sick nor die and the islanders believe he must be a god. This is the second time that Paul has been called a god because of the power of the Holy Spirit operating in him. Paul is a minister of Jesus. He ministers to all those around him. He heals many on the island.

Acts 28:11-16 (NIV)

After wintering on the island of Malta, Paul and his shipmates head for Rome. The believers hear that Paul is coming and travel to meet him and accompany him to Rome. What an amazing moment!

Acts 28:17-24 (NIV)

After arriving at Rome, Paul asks to see the Jewish leaders there. He speaks to them about Jesus. Some believe – some don't. The book ends with these words:

Acts 28:25-28 (NIV)

Paul was detained in Rome for two years – living in a house he rented – preaching the gospel to all who would listen.

Even historians debate the exact date or manner in which Paul died, but it is almost universally accepted that he was martyred. Based on historical events of the day, it is likely that Paul was beheaded, possibly around the same time that Peter was crucified. Given the political turmoil of the day, both apostles could have been caught up in a wave of attacks on Christians following a great fire in Rome and martyred under Nero.

Today's Scriptures:

- Acts 27
- Acts 28