



Acts

Lesson 25, Chapter 27

“For this reason I have often been hindered from coming to you; but now, with no further place for me in these regions, and since I have had for many years a longing to come to you whenever I go to Spain—for I hope to see you in passing, and to be helped on my way there by you, when I have first enjoyed your company for a while—but now, I am going to Jerusalem serving the saints. For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.” Romans 15:22-26

Paul wanted to go to Rome. He wrote of these plans to visit there shortly before his trip to Jerusalem. Though suspicious that he would face hardship in Jerusalem, he had no idea that he would be arrested and make his journey to Rome in chains. He must have believed that going to Jerusalem was God’s will, so going to Rome in chains would have God’s purpose behind it as well.

Paul had given a final defense before Agrippa II in chapter 26. Agrippa agreed with Festus that Paul was not guilty of a crime, but Paul had appealed to Caesar so to Caesar he must go. Therefore, in chapter 27, the journey to Rome is planned and set into motion. They set sail up the coast of Asia and, after several stops, headed for Italy. They lost much time because of bad winds and had to travel during the more dangerous season for sailing. After getting caught in a storm of hurricane force (Euraquilo), Paul’s ship is run aground on a reef. Knowing the force of the waves will soon break the ship apart, the guards decide to kill the prisoners to prevent their escape. Because of Paul’s good relationship with the centurion in charge, their lives were spared. After abandoning the ship, all 276 passengers made it safely to land.

READ CHAPTER 27

- 1. From Jerusalem, figure approximately many miles by sea it would be to get to Rome.*
- 2. Why do you think they sailed along the coast and made stops instead of just sailing for Cyprus? What previous experience had Paul had in Cyprus? Acts 13:4-12*

3. *According to tradition, Aristarchus was martyred in Rome by Nero. From the following verses, give some information about him by his relationship with Paul. Acts 19:29; 20:4; Colossians 4:10; Philemon 24.*



“The ‘Fast’ of verse 9 was the Jewish Day of Atonement which fell in the later part of September or the first part of October. Sailing season was from Pentecost (May-June) to Tabernacles, which fell five days after the Fast. The Romans felt to sail after September 15 was considered doubtful but after November 11 suicidal.” Archeological Study Bible

4. *Read Leviticus 16. Record your comments and questions regarding the Day of Atonement.*
5. *In what ways does the writer of Hebrews tie Jesus to the Day of Atonement? Hebrews 9:6-28, 10:19-22, and 13:11-13.*
6. *Do you think Paul might have had special revelation as to what was going to happen on the voyage (vs. 10), or was he just using common sense in his prediction?*
7. *What did the centurion decide to do instead of following Paul’s suggestion?*
8. *What three things did they do to try to survive the storm?*
9. *How did Paul give them encouragement when they had lost all hope of being saved?*

10. *In what ways do you see God's sovereignty in the details of these events?*

11. *Though God had told Paul all would be saved from the shipwreck, what practical things did they still do for survival? What does this tell you about God's part and our part in the events of our lives?*

12. *It is said that the way we endure a crisis tells much about our faith. What did you learn about Paul's faith through the book of Acts? Think of a crisis you have faced or are facing. What does your response to that tell you about your faith?*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
