



CAPITOL COMMISSION®

Paul's Triumph after his Trials

JUNE 9-11, 2021

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Acts 28:7-16 *Now in the areas around that place were lands belonging to the leading man of the island, named Publius, who welcomed us and entertained us courteously three days. 8) And it happened that the father of Publius was lying afflicted with fever and dysentery; and Paul, going to see him and having prayed, laid his hands on him and healed him. 9) And after this had happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases were coming to him and being healed. 10) They also bestowed on us many honors of respect; and when we were setting sail, they supplied us with all we needed. 11) Now at the end of three months we set sail on an Alexandrian ship which had wintered on the island, and which had the Twin Brothers for its figurehead. 12) After we put into Syracuse, we stayed there for three days. 13) From there we sailed around and arrived at Rhegium, and after a day when the south wind sprang up, on the second day we came to Puteoli. 14) There we found some brothers, and were invited to stay with them for seven days; and thus we came to Rome. 15) And the brothers, when they heard about us, came from there as far as the Market of Appius and Three Inns to meet us. When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage. 16) And when we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him. (2021 Legacy Standard Bible)*

“HOW SATAN TRIED TO HINDER PAUL FROM REACHING ROME; HOW HE ATTEMPTED TO OPPOSE GOD’S WILL AND GOD’S PLAN! BY THE MURDEROUS JEWS, BY THE STORMS OF THE SEA, THE SUGGESTION OF THE SOLDIERS TO KILL THE PRISONERS, AND NOW BY THE VIPER SATAN TRIED TO FRUSTRATE THE LORD’S PLAN. BUT GOD KEPT HIS SERVANT AND NO HARM COULD COME TO HIM. IN THE SAME KEEPING ALL HIS PEOPLE REST. WE ARE SAFE UNDER HIM, OUR OMNIPOTENT LORD.”
ARNO GAEBELEIN

How did God give Paul immediate strategic ministry with the Governor of the island? Was this three months of immediate answered prayer as Paul healed those who came to him? Did the entire island show their gratitude for Paul’s presence by shipwreck? How is the strategy of Paul’s commission fulfilled in this final portion of his journey? Is Paul allowed a week to stay with the first Christian friends he meets? Does the church in and around Rome escort Prisoner Paul with a three stage parade as he enters the capital of the empire of the world?

FOCUS ON FUTURE SATELLITE BIBLE STUDIES:

- JUNE 16-18: ACTS 28:17-23 *PAUL’S WITNESS TO HIS PEOPLE*
- JUNE 23-25: ACTS 28:19-32 *THE RELIGIOUS REJECT AND THE HEATHEN HEAR*

In Jerusalem almost being killed by brutal beating in the attempted lynching of Paul twice in the Temple by the deceit of the Jews from Ephesus, the over forty kamikaze Jews who vowed they would not eat or drink until they had killed Paul, the physical attack on Paul perpetrated by the High Priest and the opposite sides of the isle literally pulling to rip him apart as he was on trial before the Sanhedrin, the vicious lies by the leaders of Israel at Paul’s trial, the incarceration to acquire a bribe for two years by Governor Felix, the public perjury by so many members of the Sanhedrin at Paul’s second trial, the

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 8:30AM – BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – 106 CARTER ST & NOON – FAIRFAX – DENNY’S, 10473 FAIRFAX BLVD.

THURSDAY @ 8:00AM – BIBLE STUDY – RICHMOND – SHONEY’S, 9963 HULL STREET ROAD (LOCATED AT HULL & COURTHOUSE)

FRIDAY @ 7:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY – SUFFOLK – VILLAGE INN, 6116 COLLEGE DRIVE, NEAR HAMPTON ROADS CROSSING

Virginia

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direct obstruction of justice by Governor Festus seeking to force Paul to risk his life in returning to Jerusalem, the contrary winds all the way to Crete in the Alexandrian grain ship, the refusal to heed Paul's warnings of leaving Fair Havens, the hurricane force winds and rain of a life threatening storm causing everyone on board such panic stricken terror that they don't eat for two weeks at sea, the mariners seeking to escape on the last night, their inability to dodge the hidden reef, the waves crushing their stern in the shipwreck, the plan of the soldiers to kill all the prisoners, and the bite by a poisonous serpent provides significant evidence that Satan did not want Paul witnessing in the capital of the Roman empire.

IS THAT SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO COMPARE PAUL TO JOB?

I. PAUL'S PARADISE OF PRAYER ACTS 28:7-10

After Job's trials he was given twice as much by God and twice as many children with his daughters being the most beautiful. After Jesus' temptation the angels ministered to him. So after Paul's trials God rejoices Paul's heart by fulfilling his every passion with immediate answer to prayer! Paul's passion was first and foremost strategic in alignment with his commission to win "*kings*" (Acts 9:15) and while the "*leading man*" or Roman governor, Publius, had hosted him for three days he must have heard about the sickness of his father. With the laying on of hands, God immediately answered Paul's prayer and healed the father of Publius. That healing, combined with protection from the poison of the snake, ignited such faith in the people of Malta that those with afflictions came or were brought to Paul for three months and his prayers were immediately answered so that all were healed. For Luke, the Governor's Mansion must have become a physician's paradise as well as he observed God's supernatural power so wonderfully displayed. Thus, the whole island honors them and supplies them with provisions for their trip.

"GIVEN JULIUS'S LENIENT TREATMENT OF HIM, AND THEIR THREE MONTH STAY (V.11), PAUL WOULD HAVE HAD MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO PREACH. ACCORDING TO TRADITION, THE CHURCH ON MALTA DATES FROM THIS TIME, WITH PUBLIUS AS ITS FIRST PASTOR." JOHN MACARTHUR

II. PAUL'S PATTERN OF PROMINENCE ACTS 28:11-13

The centurion Julius would have considered himself privileged to have such a powerful prisoner. Assuming he had become a believer, risking his life for Paul (27:43), he may have assisted Paul all he could professionally to help him plant other churches on the way to Rome. Paul had planted churches in capitals throughout the empire. They do not sail directly to Rome, but stop for three days at Syracuse, Sicily's capital, where Paul founded a church according to tradition. Then they sailed to their next capital, Rhegium where, according to tradition, the first local Christians are converted and the Christianization of Bruttium begins. The south wind required sailing to the primary seaport of Rome, Puteoli, Italy's foremost harbor.

"NO CAESAR COULD HAVE GOTTEN A WARMER RECEPTION THAN DID THIS JEWISH MISSIONARY AS HE DISEMBARKED THE SHIP AND WALKED IN CHAINS ON HIS WAY TO THE IMPERIAL CITY TO APPEAR BEFORE NERO IN DEFENSE OF THE GOSPEL." JAMES FLOYD

III. PAUL'S PARADE OF PARTNERSHIP ACTS 28:14-16

Julius grants the request of the Christians that Paul stay with them a week for his preaching at least one Sunday. This also gave them time to notify saints in Rome so that they could give Paul great honor at the imperial capital. Prisoner Paul's parade began with believers in Puteoli, swelling with more who met him at Appii Forum, having traveled 43 miles from Rome, and swelling again 10 miles later at Three Taverns. What an encouragement for Paul!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Can God trust you with unfailing devotion for Himself amid the formidable, dangerous and endless attacks of Satan?
- 2) Are you a willing and strategic witness for Christ's Kingdom, planning to make the most of every opportunity?
- 3) Have you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and are you willing to promote His Kingdom?