



CAPITOL COMMISSION[®]

One Nation's Doom Opens the Door for Many Others

JUNE 23-25, 2021

Pastor David Andersen / 804-796-9411 / PO Box 2020, Chesterfield, VA 23832 / David.Andersen@capitolcom.org

Acts 28:23-31 *And when they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly bearing witness about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening. 24) And some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others were not believing. 25) And when they disagreed with one another, they began leaving after Paul had spoken one word, "The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers, 26) saying, 'GO TO THIS PEOPLE AND SAY, "YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; AND YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE; 27) FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, AND WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES; LEST THEY MIGHT SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I HEAL THEM.'" 28) "Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God was sent to the Gentiles—they will also hear." 29) [When he had spoken these words, the Jews departed, having a great dispute among themselves.] 30) And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him, 31) preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence unhindered.*
(2021 Legacy Standard Bible)

PAUL ANNOUNCES THE DOOM OF THE NATION; EVEN AS IN THE DAYS OF ISAIAH, A JUDICIAL BLINDNESS IS VISITED UPON ISRAEL "UNTIL THE FULNESS OF THE GENTILES BECOME IN." SOME JEWS WILL BE SAVED, BUT THE NATION IS REJECTED. CHARLES ERDMAN

Did these Jews have plenty of time to have all their questions answered? Were the unbelievers rejecting their own Scriptures? How many years is this prior to the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD? Is this a doubling of the strongest negation available in the Greek language? Are they choosing to be blind to the truth? Did their rejection stop God's gracious salvation? Was anyone exempt from Paul's welcome? As Paul shared the truth, did the Roman Empire provide full freedom of speech?

FOCUS ON FUTURE EVENTS:

- SEPTEMBER 17: LIFT-DELTAVILLE THE LEGISLATIVE INVITATIONAL FISHING TOURNAMENT
- NOVEMBER 1: ELECTION-EVE PRAYER THE CAPITOL COOKOUT AND PRAYER WALK

There was no nation with greater opportunity to know their Messiah than the Jews. Jesus was sent to them, born in Bethlehem by ancient prophecy (Micah 5:2). He was born of a virgin, ("the seed of the woman" Genesis 3:15) another prophecy of the Jewish Messiah (Isaiah 7:14), and fulfilled miracles prophesied of the Messiah in healing the man born blind, the deaf, the mute, and the lame (Isaiah 35:4-6, 42:7). He fulfilled over 300 specific prophecies in the Old Testament. Even more miraculous than being born of a virgin was Jesus' prophecy of His own resurrection in three days after his death (John 2:18-22), which the leaders tried to prevent (Matthew 27:62-66), and bribed the guards to lie about His resurrection (Matthew 28:11-15). Jesus met with His disciples many times over the next forty days including an appointment with them, giving them His Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) and was seen by over 500 others (1 Corinthians

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 8:30AM – BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – 106 CARTER ST & NOON – WOODBRIDGE – LEGISLATOR'S HOME-CALL US

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

One Nation's Doom Opens the Door for Many Others

15:6). His disciples were commissioned again just before Jesus ascended (Acts 1:8-9). The final physical proof of His resurrection was the conversion and transformation of Saul (Acts 9). With Paul evangelizing the Jews first in each capital, they were privileged in every place to be given priority in the knowledge of their awaited Messiah.

"FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, FOR IT IS THE POWER OF GOD TO SALVATION FOR EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES, FOR THE JEW FIRST AND ALSO FOR THE GREEK." THE APOSTLE PAUL (ROMANS 1:16)

I. AN INFORMED DECISION

ACTS 28:23-24

News had been spread by the Jewish leaders in Rome that a Rabbi from the Sanhedrin was in the city and wanted to explain why he was bound in chains *"for the sake of the hope of Israel."* When many more came, Paul explained *"about the kingdom of God"* specifically *"trying to persuade them concerning Jesus"* their Messiah, using only their Scriptures. The discussion was so interesting that they listened *"from morning until evening."* It seems that, by the use of the same particle (*"some"*), about half are persuaded, likely joining Paul in persuading the others.

BELIEF IN JESUS AS THE MESSIAH, WHOSE ATONING SACRIFICE IS THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE PAYMENT FOR OUR SINS, COUPLED WITH REPENTANCE, IS MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY. TO REFUSE TO DO SO IS TO DISOBEY GOD (CF. JOHN 16:9; ACTS 17:31; 2 COR 6:1-2; HEB. 3:7-12). JOHN MACARTHUR

II. AN IGNORING DISBELIEF

ACTS 28:24B-27

Purposely disagreeing with Paul, there were others who refused to believe. Ignoring the virtual Mount Everest of evidence from Scripture and the life and ministry of Jesus

their Messiah, Paul only had one final statement that prophesied their doom and that of their own nation over 700 years prior. Isaiah had been commissioned by God with these words before they were destroyed as a nation and deported into captivity. After beginning his speech in identification with them (*"Brothers, our people, our fathers"* v. 17), Paul now distances himself from them with *"your fathers."* Their own rebellion in refusing to believe has sealed their doom and the strongest negation available is doubled twice here, the first negating probability and then negating possibility. They literally *"will not possibly understand"* ... *"will not possibly perceive"* because *"they have closed their eyes."* This is the doom of those who refuse to believe the truth when God has revealed it to them.

"SATAN PREVENTS THE CONVERSION OF SOULS TO GOD BY BLINDING THE MIND AND DARKENING THE UNDERSTANDING, 2 COR.4:4. AND THE CASE IS VERY SAD WHEN THE SINNER JOINS WITH HIM HEREIN, AND PUTS OUT HIS OWN EYES." MATTHEW HENRY

III. AN INCALCULABLE DELIVERANCE ACTS 28:28-31

God's grace nor the population of heaven can ever be diminished by the rebellion of sinners. Instead Paul proclaims in the heart of the Roman Empire an imperative from God *"that this salvation of God was sent to the Gentiles—they will also hear."* These rebellious Jews had shut themselves out of heaven, opening the door for those they despised to be delivered from their sin and to enjoy their treasured Messiah, offering infinite mercy and reward for all eternity! They would hear, believe, repent, turning from their sin to their Sovereign Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, Paul remained a prisoner in the imperial capital *"welcoming all who came to him."* Not only will he write four more New Testament books and coordinate many missionary efforts among the believers, he will even win *"those who are of Caesar's household,"* (Phil. 4:22) preaching and teaching with full freedom of speech.

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Have you believed the Scriptures and turned from your sin to Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord?
- 2) What do you do with the truth of Scripture, do you ignore it in rebellion to seal your own doom for eternity?
- 3) Are you like Paul in using every opportunity to encourage believers and boldly give others the truths of salvation?