

## PAUL'S TRIP TO ROME

Lesson: Acts 27 & 28

Related Readings: Acts 9:15-16; 25:11; & II Cor. 11:23-28

### Introduction

All of Paul's travels are interesting - from the trip to Damascus that started his life as a Christian, to the final one recorded in God's word. But the story of Paul's trip to Rome is an especially exciting one, that would actually make a great motion picture! Paul's trip is recorded in Acts 27-28, but we have to look back to chapters 21-26, to understand what led up to it and the reason for it.

### Prelude

Paul's second missionary journey concluded with his return to Jerusalem to deliver the monies that had been collected from the Gentile believers in Macedonia, Achaia and Asia for the relief of the poor Jewish believers in Jerusalem. No doubt he viewed this gesture of Christian love and sympathy as a source of unity and solidarity among the churches. However, the unbelieving Jews from Asia stirred up the people, arrested him, and falsely accused him. Their charges against Paul are found in 21:28. All of this was, of course, part of God's master plan to give Paul the opportunity to witness to various governors, kings, and eventually to Caesar (Rom. 8:28).

Paul's trip can be divided up into the following segments.

- A. Caesarea to Sidon to Myra
- B. Myra by Crete to Fair Havens
- C. Fair Havens through Euroclydon to Melita (Malta)
- D. Melita to Syrakus to Rhegium to Puteoli
- E. Puteoli to Rome by way of the famous Via Appi (now a UNESCO World Heritage Site)

### Discussion Questions

1. Why is Acts 22:25-29 so important, and an essential element in Paul's traveling to Rome?
2. Name three officials that Paul stood before, prior to the start of his trip?
3. Cite one verse in Acts that explains why Paul **had** to go to Rome. Can you provide a modern day parallel?
4. To whose care was Paul entrusted for this journey? How would you characterize their relationship?
5. Describe the first vessel that Paul was on. Describe the second vessel that Paul was on and give a passenger count.
6. At what time of year do the scriptures suggest this voyage occurred?
7. What did Paul try to tell the decision makers concerning the fate of the ship?
8. What does the storm name "Euroclydon" mean? Read 27:20 - what do you think the folks on board were thinking? Now read 27:21-26. How did the outlook change?
9. On what island did the shipwreck occur? What is the modern day name?
10. What kind of injury did Paul suffer while gathering firewood? Explain how the islanders went from one extreme to the other in how they viewed Paul.
11. Who was Publius?
12. Who was Castor and Pollux and why would a ship be associated with them?
13. What was the name of the city in Italy where Paul finally disembarked?
14. Read 28:24. How is that statement still relevant today?

### NOTES