

>>>>>> Acts - Lesson 36 <<<<<<<

- 1) As we finished last time, Agrippa, Bernice, Festus, high ranking men of the city, and military officers were all gathered.
- 2) Festus has Paul brought in and explains his position regarding sending him to Rome.
- 3) Now, Agrippa wants to hear from Paul himself. So, here we go ...
- 4) **NOTE** – if you have not downloaded the map from the biblical-matters.com website, it would be super helpful if you did before you continue. Once we start the journey to Rome, it is much easier to keep up with what's happening and where they are if you are looking at the map. It is located under Papers | Paul's Journey to Rome.

Acts 26:1–24 (NIV)

- 5) Festus is obviously listening to all that Paul is saying but he really does not understand – thus the abrupt stop to what Paul is saying.
- 6) The message of this suffering Messiah was one thing, but to actually believe that he had been killed by his own people was more than Festus could take.
- 7) And then to say he had been raised from the dead as a light to the world was too much for the humanistic mind of the Roman governor.
- 8) All of this causes Festus to simply decide that Paul must be insane.

Acts 26:25–32 (NIV)

- 1) The obvious thing that continues to be seen here is that Paul had done absolutely nothing deserving of death or even imprisonment.
 - a) Yet, he has been held for over two years now and is, because of his own appeal to Caesar, going to Rome to stand trial.
- 1) We are not told of the actual charge that was sent with Paul to Rome.
 - a) One source seems to think that sedition and blasphemy were the charges.
 - b) More specifically, the religious leaders accused him of:
 - i) Sedition: Stirring up rebellion against Roman rule.
 - ii) Blasphemy: Insulting or dishonoring the Jewish religion and God.
 - c) If these were the charges sent with him to Rome, the blasphemy charge would not be of any great importance. (Concerned only the Jewish religion.)
- 2) However, from my perspective, the sedition charge could be extremely difficult for Paul to defend against in Rome.
 - a) No witnesses for or against would be readily available.

- b) Paul's defense before a Roman court – unlike before Festus, would not be seen as viable.
- 3) Well Paul is finally going to board a ship which has the destination of Rome.
- 4) These next verses outline a situation that must fall into the category – Nothing is ever easy!

Acts 27:1–12 (NIV)

- 5) One quick comment here. Of course, they are leaving from Caesarea.
 - a) The ship is from Adramyttium. If you look it up on your map, you will **not** find it.
 - b) However, it is located in that inlet between Troas and Pergamum (about where the map shows MYSIA).
- 6) There are several things we should consider here to get the real picture of what is happening.
 - a) First, this is probably in the month of October of 59CE – this was too late in the fall to be on the open seas so an attempt is made to skirt the coastline.
 - i) Also to be considered here are the prevailing winds.
 - (1) In the summer and early fall, the winds were coming from the west and northwest and this is another reason for the ship to follow the mainland shoreline north of Cyprus.
 - b) Paul's traveling companions are Luke and Aristarchus at a minimum. From the tone of Luke's comment, there could have been others who were not named.
 - i) Just as a reminder and to make the connection, Aristarchus is the man who had been dragged into the amphitheater in Ephesus during the riots there.
 - c) Julius the centurion also figures significantly into this situation.
 - i) We are not told whether he is a Christian or not but he will be a great protector of Paul during this voyage.
 - d) Even though Paul warns the crew and the centurion about the pending danger, the decision is made to press on.
 - i) Basically, everyone knows that they are not going to make Italy now and they have to winter in at some port.
 - ii) Evidently, Fair Havens is not that port so they attempt to go the short distance from Fair Havens to Pheonix.
 - iii) Seems like a good plan but the season and weather have a different idea.
- 7) So... The Storm

Acts 27:13–20 (NIV)

- 1) Well, the very thing they did not want to happen because of the season happened anyway.

- 2) As they attempted to sail the short distance from Fair Havens to Pheonix they were basically blown out to sea.
- 3) They pass to the south of the island of Clauda and are caught in a storm and cannot turn back into the wind to get back to Phoenix.
- 4) We really do not know exactly where they are when this next passage takes place. Obviously somewhere along the course one might draw from the south of Clauda to MALTA (Melita).
 - a) Most likely toward the end of the storm.

Acts 27:21–26 (NIV)

- 1) Not exactly the way I would have started that conversation “I told you so...” but at least Paul has good news beyond that.
- 2) We are looking at a serious storm and perilous situation as Paul indicates, the ship is going to be lost.
- 3) But the good news is everyone will live.
- 4) In normal conditions, the trip from Crete to Malta would have taken perhaps 3-5 days depending on currents, winds, type of ship etc.
- 5) As we will see here from Luke’s account that the voyage was much longer than that.
- 6) Once again, continuing...

Acts 27:27–44 (NIV)

- 1) Well, after 14 or 15 days, the ordeal is almost over.
- 2) All that the angel had revealed to Paul had come to pass and everyone is safe on shore.
- 3) There are a few interesting facts in the passage we should at least be sure we acknowledge.
 - a) First, 276 people onboard is a very good indicator that this was quite a large ship.
 - b) This would also indicate that the cargo was quite large and worth major dollars for this day or any day for that matter.
 - c) As we mentioned at the start, Paul was not the only prisoner onboard.
 - d) As always, one might assume that if prisoners escape, those in charge were in deep trouble so, to prevent their escape the soldiers decide to kill them.
 - i) Interesting way to handle the problem.
 - e) Here Julius the centurion intervenes and prevents the killing of all of them which would of course have included Paul.
- 4) So, everyone has made it to shore but what shore?