

Acts 27:1-28:31

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 11-8-17

Context

V. On the Way to Rome (21:18-28:31)

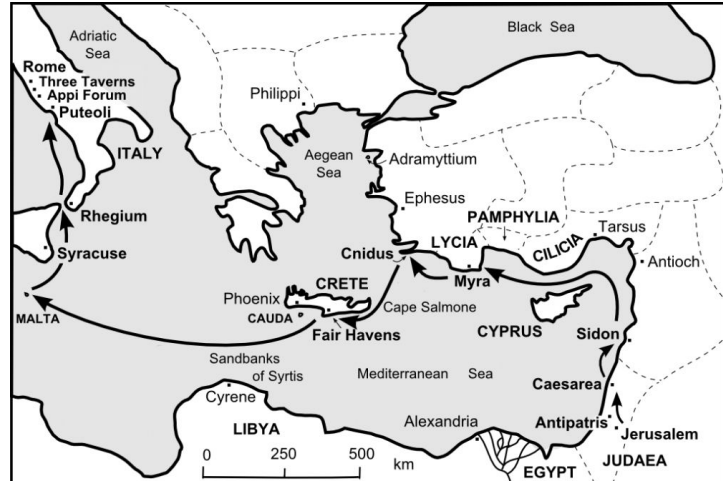
A. Paul's arrest and self-defense (21:18-23:35)

B. Paul on trial (24:1-26:32)

C. Rome at last! (27:1-28:31)

Rome At Last!

- Roman Empire: "the grandest political achievement ever accomplished."
- How/when the gospel reached Rome???
 - Acts 2:10 - "visitors from Rome" in Jerusalem at Pentecost
 - 25 yrs. later Paul wrote Romans
 - Longed to encourage & strengthen them (1:8-15)
 - Delayed so that the gospel might be preached somewhere new (Rom. 15:20-22)
 - Wished to see them on his way to Spain
 - Acts 28:15 - as he reached the city, church members came out to greet him
- The "journey motif"
 - ⅔ of Luke: Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. ⅓ of Acts: Paul's journey to Rome
 - Parallels: pattern, resolute determination, arrest, series of trials, even death/resurrection
 - Paul's life was _____ to the life of Christ



Outline of Final Chapters

- 27:1-12 - From Caesarea to Crete
- 27:13-38 - Storm at sea
- 27:39-28:10 - Shipwreck at Malta
- 28:11-16 - Arrival at Rome
- 28:17-31 - the gospel for Jews and Gentiles (similar pattern as elsewhere)

The Problem of Chapter 27

- Why so much time devoted to the storm at sea story?
 - The _____ of God (Eph. 1:11; Prov. 21:30; Isa. 8:10, 54:10; Rom. 8:28; Gen. 50:20)

- Why arrive as a prisoner?
 - Luke wants us to marvel with him over the safe _____ of Paul to Rome
 - Paul wanted to go (Acts. 19:21), but Jesus said he was going (Acts 23:11).
 - Nothing could stop him from arriving in his God-planned destination
 - The sea: in the OT represented chaos and evil powers in opposition to God
 - The enemy can't stop him
 - Luke's inside information in 23:11 = we know the _____ from the beginning!

- His arrival as a prisoner actually _____ his witness
 - The _____ of his witness was expanded
 - Able to witness to Christ in the presence of Caesar
 - The _____ of his witness was enriched (by his 2 years in chains)
 - Prison letters are perhaps the most remarkable:
 - The sovereignty and purposes of God, the person/work of Christ, the fullness of the Godhead, the nature of the church, Christian conduct and character (humility, contentment, unity, and forgiveness)
 - His ministry was _____ by his sufferings
 - Nothing proves the sincerity of our witness like willingness to suffer for them
 - He suffered for the _____ (II Tim. 2:8-9)
 - He suffered for _____ (Eph. 3:13; Col. 1:24)
 - He was Christ's _____ (Eph. 3:1; Col. 4:3)

- After Rome
 - He expected to be freed (Phil. 1:19-26; Phm. 22)
 - Pastoral epistles supply evidence he was, resuming travels for 2 more years before re-arrested, re-tried, condemned, and executed in AD 64 (II Tim. 4:7)