

GREAT EVENTS OF THE BIBLE --
PAUL'S ARREST, IMPRISONMENT,
AND TRIP TO ROME!

(SLIDE #1) "GREAT EVENTS OF
THE BIBLE #86 -- PAUL'S ARREST
THAT LEAD TO IMPRISONMENT
IN ROME."

Introduction:

- A. Paul Concluded His Third Missionary Journey By Coming To Jerusalem.
- B. Arrival Here Brought Great Opposition That Led To Paul Being Imprisoned For The Next Several Years.

I. Arrival In Jerusalem And Arrest. 21:17-23:34

- A. Paul's Arrival In Jerusalem. Ac. 21:17-40
 - 1. (Slide #2) Map Of The Third Missionary Journey. They landed at (►) Tyre.
 - 2. **Paul's arrival in (►) Jerusalem. 17-20**
 - a. Paul and his traveling companions were warmly (joyfully) received by the brethren. 17
 - b. The following day, Paul and his companions (including Luke -- "us"), met James and all the elders of the Jerusalem Church. 18
 - c. Paul recounted in detail what God had done among the Gentiles and how they had preached Jesus. 19
 - d. The Jews rejoiced at these events and glorified God. 20
 - 3. James and the elders explained a serious problem to Paul -- many zealous Jewish Christians, still fervently holding on the Law of Moses, were angry when they heard that Paul was teaching Gentiles that they could please God without submitting to the Law of Moses. But even worse, they were LIVID when they heard that he was telling JEWS that THEY did not have to submit to those ordinances either -- NOT EVEN circumcision. 20,21
 - a. James and the elders advised Paul to take four men who had made a vow, purify them and yourself, and pay their expenses. Then they can shave their heads.
 - b. Then the Jews will realize that the reports they have heard are false and that you do respect the law. 24
 - c. They reaffirmed the conclusion of the Ac. 15 meeting that Gentiles should avoid idolatry, fornication, and blood. 25

4. The next day Paul took those four men to the Temple to begin the purification. This purification would end with a sacrifice at the end of 7 days. 26
 - a. Shaving the head was the indication of an end of a vow.
 - b. This was not a Nazarite vow; it was a private vow.
 - c. Paul did this as a Jewish custom, not as an act of obedience to the Law of Moses!
5. As that 7 days period was about to conclude, Jews from Asia (the province on the western end of Asia Minor) stirred up the city of Jerusalem against Paul. They charged him with opposing EVERYTHING about Judaism and with desecrating the Temple by bringing Greeks into It. They had seen Trophimus, (He was one of Paul's fellow missionaries, 20:4), an Ephesian, with Paul in the outer Temple area. 27-29.
6. The Jewish people, enraged, drug Paul out of the Temple and shut Its' doors. 30
7. **(Slide #3)** As they were about to kill him, the chief captain of the Roman garrison, Claudius Lysias (23:26), hearing the uproar, took soldiers and delivered Paul by taking him to the Fort called Antonia. 31-36
 - a. When they arrived at the top of the steps, Paul spoke to Claudius Lysias in Greek and asked if he could address this mob. 37
 - b. The captain, astounded at whom Paul was, gave him permission to speak to the mob. He did so in the Hebrew language. 38-40
 - e. His speech is found in chapter 22.

B. Paul's Defense To The Angry Jews; The Resulting Events! Ac. 22:1-30

1. Paul's Defense Before The Angry Jews. 1-21
 - a. He talked about his education in his early life at the feet of Gamaliel. 3
 - b. He described his efforts in persecuting Christians. With permission from the High Priest, he had been on the way to arrest and imprison Christians in Damascus. 4,5
 - c. He told about his astounding conversation with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus! 6-16
 1. Question: Why would Paul turn to this discussion after talking about his training in Judaism? He is declaring that his conversion was HEAVEN focused!
 2. He tells of the events on the road to Damascus: 6-10
 3. The Lord told Saul to go into Damascus; there he would be told of all things that had been appointed for him to do. 10
 - d. He told of his conversion in Damascus -- being blinded, led into Damascus, Ananias sent to him, Ananias restored his sight, and then he taught Saul how to be saved. 11-16
 - e. Then he told about God's mission for him -- to take the Gospel to the Gentiles! 17-21

2. The Jews' violent reaction to Saul's address; the commander's response! 22:22-30
 - a. They listened to Paul's defense quietly until he declared his mission to the Gentiles; then they became enraged and wanted to kill him! 22-23
 - b. When this violence erupted, the commander ordered that Paul be taken into the fort [castle] where he would be tried by scourging; he planned to beat Paul so he can ascertain what his crime really is. (The idea was to torture the prisoner until he broke down and told the truth.)
 - c. As they were binding Paul (likely for scourging), he asked a centurion, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?" As soon as the commander realized that Paul WAS a Roman citizen, he stopped the plans for the scourging! 25-29
 - d. The next day, determined to find out what the problem was, the commander released Paul from his bonds, called the Sanhedrin to come, and brought Paul in before them. He was trying to find out why there was so much anger at Paul. 30

C. Saul's Defense Before The Sanhedrin; Results; Sent To Caesarea! Ac. 23:1-34

1. This was the day after Paul's arrest and speech to the Jews. 22:30
2. The commander removed Paul's bonds and commanded the members of the Jewish Sanhedrin to meet; then he would hear their complaint and hear Paul's defense.
3. Keep this in mind about this trial: Claudius Lysias governed this trial; the Sanhedrin members were there to oppose Paul!
4. Paul's defense before the Jewish council. 23:1-5
 - a. Paul began his defense with the affirmation that he had in the past and continued to live "in all good conscience before God!"
 - b. The High Priest, Ananias, ordered some standing by Paul to strike him in the mouth! 2. Interestingly, Paul was not aware that this man was the High Priest.
 - c. Paul's retort: "God will strike you, *you* whitewashed wall! For you sit to judge me according to the law, and do you command me to be struck contrary to the law?" 3 (Paul is prophesying that God would smite the High Priest -- God was going to take his life! That occurred in A.D. 66 when Ananias was killed by a vicious group of Jews who hated the Romans.)
5. Paul wisely drove a wedge between (caused contention between) those who were opposing him! 23:6-10
 - a. Some were Sadducees; others were Pharisees. 6
 1. Sadducees -- They denied the supernatural and the resurrection from the dead. They only followed the Torah; They did not believe in angels or spirits.

2. Pharisees -- They believed in the supernatural and in the resurrection.
 - b. He affirmed that he was a Pharisee and the son of a Pharisee. 7
 - c. He stated that he was being judged because he taught concerning his hope and the resurrection from the dead! 6.
 - d. Paul's affirmation caused a HUGE rift between the Pharisees and the Sadducees. 7-9
 1. The Pharisees and the Sadducees turned against each other!
 2. Discord arose; a great cry came forth from some of the scribes who were Pharisees and they insisted or protested, saying, "We find nothing evil in this man! If a spirit or an angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God!" (Observe their Pharisaical beliefs here in this statement!)
 - e. The commander, concerned for Paul's life because the Jews were ready to rip Paul asunder, took him by force and brought him to the fort (the barracks of the Roman guard). 10
 - f. This is the third time in two days that Claudius Lysias had to rescue Paul for the rage of the Jews.
6. The Plot Against Paul's Life. 23:11-24
- a. That night, the Lord, spoke to Paul and told him that he would be a witness in Rome just as he had in Jerusalem; don't be afraid! 11
 - b. The next day, more than 40 Jews conspired together and vowed that they would not eat or drink until they had killed Paul 12
 1. They informed the chief priests and elders of the vow that they would eat nothing until they had killed Paul. 14
 2. Their plot: have the High Priest to ask Claudius Lysias for another trial. These men would ambush Paul on the way to the trial and kill him!
 3. They told the council to inform the commander that he should bring Paul to the Sanhedrin the next day to try him. 15
 4. These conspiring assassins would kill Paul on the way to the trial; thus, the Sanhedrin would not be charged with having any part in the conspiracy. 15
 - c. **(Slide #4)** Paul's nephew (his sister's son) heard of the plot; he told Paul; then Paul had him to tell the centurion about the 40 men who had made the oath and who were lying in wait to kill Paul. 16-21
 - d. The commander sent the young man away and protected him by telling him to leave and to tell NO ONE that he had revealed this plot! 22
 - e. **(Slide #5)** The commander amassed 470 soldiers; they would depart Jerusalem at 9 PM. 23
 1. The commander decided to move Paul BEFORE the Jews could even make the request for a new trial!
 2. The entourage that he assembled would have had NO trouble defeating about 40 assassins!

3. Thus, by this action, the plot of the assassins was countered and destroyed.
 4. The commander was determined to transport him safely to Felix the governor in Caesarea! 24
7. **(Slide #6) Paul Was Taken From (►) Jerusalem To Caesarea! 25-36**
- a. The commander wrote a letter for the soldiers to take to Felix explaining why he was sending Paul to him.
 1. He began by addressing Felix as a mighty, noble man.
 2. His explanation in this letter is purely political deception to make himself look good to his superior.
 - a. He acted as if he rescued Paul because he was about to be killed when in reality he arrested Paul thinking he was an Egyptian assassin!
 - b. He illegally arrested Paul, a Roman citizen!
 - c. Lysias DID NOT KNOW that Paul was a Roman citizen until AFTER Paul had been bound and was about to be scourged!
 3. He explained that he took Paul to the Jewish Council to try to understand the charges against him! 28
 4. He stated that he soon realized that the accusations were about violating the Jews' law, not the law of the Roman Empire. He realized that Paul had done NOTHING worthy of death! 29
 5. He told about learning of a plot against Paul; thus, he sent him to Felix. 30
 6. He ordered the Jews to present their accusations against Paul to Felix!
 - b. This large band of soldiers took Paul and brought him during the night to (►) Antipatris. 31
 1. This was about 40 miles from Jerusalem
 2. It was about 26 miles south of Caesarea.
 - c. The next day the 70 horsemen took Paul on to (►) Caesarea; the other soldiers returned to the fort in Jerusalem. 32
 - d. They delivered him and the letter from Claudius Lysias to Felix.
 - e. When Felix read the letter, he agreed to hear Paul's case when the Jewish accusers came down from Jerusalem. 34,35
 - f. We later learn in Ac. 24:27, this would be Paul's residence for the next 2 years.

II. (Slide #7) Imprisonment In Caesarea. 24:1-26:32

A. (Slide #8) Trial Before Felix. Ac. 24:1-26

1. **Tertullus' Accusations Against Paul. 1-9**
 - a. Five days after Paul had been whisked away to Caesarea, Ananias the High Priest and Tertullus an orator arrived in Caesarea to speak against Paul in a trial. 1

- b. Tertullus' accusations: 2-8
 - 1. He began his statements by praising Felix for keeping Israel in peace and bringing about many reforms in their country. 2,3
 - a. He had suppressed many riots.
 - b. He had executed many freedom fighters who tried to rid Israel of the Roman presence in their land.
 - c. He expressed gratitude for the Jewish nation for what Felix had done. 3
 - 2. He promised not to take too much of Felix's time; he promised to state the Jew's case succinctly and briefly. 4
 - 3. Charges against Paul: 5-6
 - a. He accused Paul of being a "pest" or a "plague" who was literally infecting the WHOLE WORLD, everywhere Paul went! 5
 - b. He also accused Paul of being the instigator of a new religion or sect of the Nazarenes (this was a castigation of Christianity and of Jesus, from Nazareth!) 5
 - c. He accused Paul of trying to profane the Temple. 6
 - 4. He accuses Claudius Lysias of forcefully and violently rescuing Paul from the angry Jews. 7 (This event occurred back in Ac. 21:33)
 - 5. Lysias had ordered the accusers to come to Caesarea and to state their case against Paul before Felix. 8
 - c. All of the Jews who were with Tertullus affirmed that all the charges that he brought against Paul were factual and legitimate. 9
2. **Paul's Defense Before Felix.** 10-21
- a. Paul, like Tertullus, began his defense by expressing gratitude that he was being judged by Felix who had for many years been a judge over Israel. 10
 - b. It was only 12 days earlier that Paul had come to Jerusalem. 11
 - 1. Paul is suggesting that there was no way that he could be the pest and causer of sedition of which he was being charged in such a short amount of time.
 - 2. In fact, five of those days had been spent out of Jerusalem; he had only been there for a week!
 - c. No one had seen him disputing or causing tumult in the Temple, in the synagogue, or anywhere else in Jerusalem! 12
 - d. The accusations that Tertullus had brought against him in this trial could not be proven because they were false charges! 13
 - e. Paul did acknowledge that he was a Christian, a part of the religion that the Jews called "a sect!" He affirmed that this religion is the one that the Law of Moses and the prophets foretold! 14
 - f. Christianity was a religion of hope; a religion of the resurrection of the dead! 15
 - g. In view of the resurrection and the accompanying judgment, Paul sought to live a blameless life! 16

- h. He explained his purpose in being in Judea -- it had been years since Paul had been there; he now came, not to stir up trouble but rather to provide financial aid to assist his struggling Jewish brethren! 17
 - i. He explained that all of this trouble was started by Jews from Asia who saw him in the Temple when he was being purified. 21:23-26. He was in NO WAY causing ANY KIND OF TROUBLE when those Jews saw him! 18
 - j. Paul asserted that the Jews from Asia were the ones who should have been at this trial accusing him; the High priest, Jewish leaders, and Tertullus should not be his accusers! 19
 - k. He even challenged the Jewish leaders to show ANY WAY that he did wrong when he spoke before the Sanhedrin! 20; Ac. 23:1-10
 - l. He declared that there is only ONE reason that he is being tried -- it is because of his belief in and proclamation of the resurrection! 21
3. **Felix's Response To The Jews' Complaint And To Paul's Defense.** 22-27
- a. Felix understood much about the Jewish religion and about Christianity. So, he had a baseline understanding about the issues and the conflict. 22
 - b. He said he would make a decision after conferring with Lysias -- this would remove the heat of the immediate moment. 22
 - c. He commanded that one of his centurions be given charge of Paul. This was a very lax custody, almost like "house arrest." 23
 - d. Felix and Drusilla came to hear Paul present his Message. 24,25
 - 1. Drusilla was the former wife of Gaius Julius Azizus, king of Emesa; Felix had used a sorcerer to get her to leave her husband and to marry him. She was his third wife!
 - 2. Paul's message to them: 25
 - a. "Righteousness" -- how you should treat your fellowman (the implication -- Felix, you are a wife stealer! You did not treat Azizus righteously!)
 - b. "Temperance" -- self-control. Man must practice self-control when tempted. You let lust lead you to steal a man's wife and to cause you to live in adultery!
 - c. "Judgment to come" -- there is a coming day of reckoning; you will have to answer to God for your sins!!!
 - 4. Felix's response:
 - a. He was TERRIFIED!
 - b. "Go now! When I have time later, I will send for you!"
 - c. Obviously, he wanted to get away from the "heat of conviction!"
 - e. Felix held Paul in hopes of extorting money either from Paul or other Christians that would "buy his release!" 26,27
 - 1. This went on for 2 years!
 - 2. When Felix was replaced by Festus, he left Paul under arrest. Why? He wanted to stay in the good graces of the Jews!

B. (Slide #9) Paul Held And Tried Under The Reign Of Festus. 24:27-26:32

1. Trial by Festus; Appeal To Caesar. 25:1-12

- a. Festus succeeded Felix as Governor over Judea. He was the Governor from A.D. 60-62. 24:27
- b. Three days later he went up to Jerusalem to confer with the Jewish leaders.
- c. During that meeting they urged Festus to have another trial of Paul. His murder was **FIRST PRIORITY!** They requested that trial to be in Jerusalem; they would plan to assassinate him on the trip to Jerusalem. 25:2,3
- d. Festus told them to come to Caesarea when he returned. 25:4,5
- e. He returned 10 days later, the day after he returned to Caesarea he brought Paul to the set of judgment to be tried. 25:6
 1. The Jews made many serious charges. 25:7
 2. Paul denied those charges. 25:8
- f. He remained in Jerusalem for more than 10 days; then he returned to Caesarea. The next day he brought Paul to the Judgment seat for trial. 6 [He has now been the ruler for two weeks!]
- g. The Jews presented many serious charges against Paul but could not substantiate ANY of those charges! 7
- h. Paul denied the charges! He declared that he had not broken the Law of Moses; he had not profaned the Temple and he had not violated Roman law. 8
- i. When Festus asked Paul if he was willing to go to Jerusalem to face these charges, Paul, realizing he would not receive fair treatment from Festus, appealed to Caesar -- this was a legally binding request that had to be observed!

2. (Slide #10) The Conference between Festus and Agrippa. 25:13-27

a. King Agrippa II and Bernice came to greet Festus at Caesarea. 13

1. Agrippa:
 - a. He was the grandson of King Herod and the son of Agrippa I.
 - b. He was the ruler over Abilene and Bashan -- the land northeast of Palestine.
2. Bernice:
 - a. She was the sister of Drusilla and Agrippa II.
 - b. She was the incestuous wife of Agrippa (she was married to her brother!)
3. So, they came to visit family! Bernice and Drusilla were sisters! Agrippa was their brother!
- b. After being there for a few days, **Festus told Agrippa about Paul's case that he had "inherited" from Felix. 25:14-21**
- c. **Agrippa requested the opportunity to hear Paul and was granted the privilege to do so the next day. 25:22**

- d. **The next day, Agrippa and Bernice came to the Judgment Hall with much royal flair and pomp.** The leaders of Caesarea also were present when Paul was brought forth. 25:23
 - e. **Festus explained the circumstances to Agrippa; he was seeking an explanation for sending him to Rome.** 25:24-27
3. **Agrippa Hears Paul's Case.** Ac.26:1-32
- a. Paul explained his loyalty to the Law of Moses, his opposition to Christianity, his conversion, and his commission given to him by Jesus Christ. 26:1-20
 - b. He explained that the Jews wanted to kill him because of his commission to preach that Jesus was the light to the Jews AND TO THE GENTILES. 26:21
 - c. **(Slide #11) Agrippa's Response To Paul's Defense.** 24-32
 - 1. Festus was infuriated at Paul and accused him of being a raving lunatic; Paul affirmed that he was just speaking the Truth! Ac. 26:24,25
 - 2. He knew that Agrippa understood the circumstances. Ac. 26:26
 - 3. When Paul asked Agrippa if he believed the O.T. prophets, Paul declared that he KNEW that Agrippa believed them. Agrippa's response: "You almost persuade me to become a Christian." (Sadly, that never occurred!)
 - 4. Festus, Agrippa and Bernice all agreed that Paul had done NOTHING worthy of or to deserve death; he should have been released if he had not appealed to Caesar! 26: 30-32

III. (Slide #12) Trip To Rome. 27:1-28:31

A. From Caesarea To Crete. 27:1-12

- 1. Paul had been arrested in (►) Jerusalem, taken to (►) Antipatris, and then to (►) Caesarea where he had been kept for several years.
- 2. Facts about this trip to Crete:
 - a. A Roman centurion, Justus, was given charge of Paul and other prisoners; Luke and Aristarchus from Thessalonica accompanied Paul. 27:1,2
 - b. They were put on a ship that from Adramyttium that would travel along the coast of Asia. 27:2
 - c. The trip:
 - 1. The next day they landed at (►) Sidon. There Julius humanely allowed Paul to go ashore to meet his friends and to be refreshed by them. 27:3
 - 2. Because of strong prevailing northwest winds, they sailed (►) north of Cyprus.

3. Sailing across the seas of Cilicia and Pamphylia, they landed at (►) Myra in Lycia. 5
4. At Myra, the centurion found a ship sailing from Alexandria, Egypt that was going to sail to Rome and he put the prisoners on that ship. 6
5. After sailing for many days they had made very little progress but finally arrived at (►) Cnidus. 7
6. Because of the strong prevailing winds that blew from northwest to the southeast, they sailed on the south side of (►) Crete, landing at (►) Fair Havens. 27:8
 - a. They remained there for some time, likely between late September and mid-October. This was the time when the Mediterranean Sea was SO dangerous. Realizing this danger, Paul advised them that they would lose the ship, its cargo, and the peoples' lives on board if they began the journey. 27:9,10
 - b. The shipmaster and the owner of the ship convinced the centurion that they should begin the trip and that all would be well. 27:11
 - c. It seems they wanted to travel westward to Phoenix, a larger harbor, and winter there. 27:12

B. A Violent Storm And Shipwreck. 27:13-44

1. Because of a gentle south wind blowing, the sailors presumed that the conditions were favorable for sailing to Phoenix. They thought that the prevailing north winds had ceased. 27:13
2. Soon after beginning the trip, a VICIOUS northeasterly tempest caught the ship and blew it 25 miles southwesterly near the island called Clauda. 27:14
 - a. This vicious northeast wind was called Euroquilo or Euroclydon (a "northeaster!").
 - b. It was a vicious northeast wind blowing toward the southwest!
 - c. The wind was so fierce and powerful that the sailors could not guide the ship; they had to let it be carried along with the wind. 27:15
 - d. When it was blown south of the island Clauda, they finally got control of the boat; however, it was done with GREAT difficulty! 27:16
 - e. They placed bands around the ship to strengthen it; they fear they would run into a sandbar; they lowered the mainsail and were just driven along by the tides of the Sea! 27:17
 - f. The second day, they began to throw the cargo overboard in an attempt to lighten its weight. 27:18
 - g. The third day they threw their tackle off the ship. 27:19
 - h. For DAYS they were in the midst of the storm. It was so cloudy that they could neither see sun by day or stars by night! They literally gave up hope of survival! 27:20

3. **Paul Is Assured By An Angel That His Life Will Be Spared.** 27:21-26
 - a. Because of the severity of the storm, the ship's occupants had not eaten for days! 27:21
 - b. Paul gives them advice: 27:21-26
 1. He began by reminding them of his previous advice at Crete. If they had listened, they would not be in this present fearful predicament! 21
 2. He told them that they would be in a shipwreck; however, no one will die! 27:22
 3. An angel of the Lord spoke to him and told him that he would go to Rome and stand before Caesar; therefore, God would spare all those who were sailing on the ship with Paul! 27:23,24
 4. He urges them to be courageous and confident; he KNEW that God can be trusted! 27:25
 5. It was imperative that they run aground on a specific island. 27:26
4. **Preparations For Landing.** 27:27-40
 - a. Fourteen days after leaving Fair Havens, and as they were being tossed to and fro in the Adriatic Sea, the ship's sailors suspected that they were about to hit land. 27:27
 - b. Realizing that they were approaching land, they put out 4 anchors from the rear of the ship in hopes that the anchors would hold them until daylight. 27:29
 - c. Some of the sailors, thinking they would die, determined to seek safety in a small boat. Under the pretense of dropping anchors from the front of the ship, they intended to get into the smaller boat. 27:30
 - d. Paul warned the centurion and the soldiers to stay in the ship; if they did not, they would die. 27:31
 - e. Heeding Paul's advice, the soldiers cut the rope and let the small ship float away! 27:32
 - f. As daylight neared, Paul urged the 276 people on board to eat; it had been fourteen days since they had eaten. Eating would strengthen them; they needed to eat because they were NOT going to die! He gave thanks for the food and they all began to eat; this uplifted their spirits. 27:33-37
 - g. After eating, they threw all the rest of the grain overboard. 27:38
 - h. At daybreak, they had no idea where they were. Seeing an inlet or bay with a beach, they decided to land the ship there. 27:39
 - i. They cut the ropes to the anchors, leaving them in the Sea, removed the bands from around the underside of the ship, raised the sail, and hoped that they could be pushed into the shore. 27:40
 - j. (►) They are near the island of Malta.

5. **(Slide #13) Shipwreck!** 27:41-44
 - a. The ship ran aground into a sandbar; the front was stuck; violent waves tore the rear part of the ship off! 27:41
 - b. The soldiers, concerned about the prisoners escaping, planned to kill them. 27:42
 - c. However, the centurion, determined to save Paul, told them that all who could swim should jump overboard and swim to the shore. 27:43
 - d. Those who could not swim grasped onto pieces of wood from the broken ship; EVERYONE made it safely to shore! 27:44

C. **(►) The Shipwrecked People On The Island Of Malta.** 28:1-10

1. Reaching land, they realized that they were on the island of Malta (570 miles west of their planned destination)! 28:1
2. The natives (they did not speak Greek) showed the shipwrecked people amazing kindness amidst the inclement weather! 28:2
 - a. Imagine being shipwrecked, drenched, and cold!
 - b. The Maltese built a fire and were so kind to the people who had experienced this awful ordeal!
3. **(Slide #14)** As Paul placed a bundle of sticks on the fire, a poisonous snake, likely aroused by the heat, came out of the sticks and bit him! 28:3
 - a. When the natives saw that snake hanging on Paul's hand, they immediately surmised that Paul was a murderer who was getting his just due! (He escaped the storm and the shipwreck, but the snake got him!) 28:4
 - b. However, Paul shook the snake off his hand and was unharmed! 28:5
 - c. The natives anxiously watched his hand, expecting Paul to die! When he was not harmed, the Maltese then assumed that he must be a god! 28:6
4. Further hospitality was extended to the shipwrecked people by Publius, a wealthy man, the chief man of the island. He took them to his estate and cared for them for 3 days! 28:7
 - a. Publius' father was seriously ill with fever and dysentery (bloody diarrhea). Paul visited this sick man, prayed for him, and healed him! 28:8
 - b. When this became known, people on the island brought their sick people to Paul to be healed! 28:9
5. The residents of Malta were SO appreciative for what Paul did! They supplied the sailors with necessary provisions and supplies to assist them to sail on to Italy. 10

D. (Slide #15) Sailing From Malta To Italy. 28:11-15

1. The shipwrecked folks were on the island of Malta for three months. After the three months, the prisoners along with some of Paul's companions including Luke took a ship from Alexandria, Egypt to travel to Italy! 28:11
2. They came to (►) Syracuse, a city on the island of Sicily and stayed there 3 days. 28:12
3. They then landed on the mainland of Italy at (►) Rhegium; the next day, as the south wind blew, they sailed to (►) Puteoli. 13
 - a. Some Christians met them there. 14
 - b. They stayed 7 days with them before travelling on to Rome. (See 20:6; 21:4,7,10; 27)
4. When brethren from Rome heard that Paul was coming, they left Rome and came down to (►) Appi Forum and (►) Three Inns to meet him. Imagine what an encouragement that must have been for Paul. 28:15

E. (►) Paul In Rome. 28:16-31

1. **At first Paul had an interview with the Jewish leaders. 28:16-22**
 - a. When they came to Rome, the centurion delivered Paul to the captain of the guard. Paul had a soldier staying with him, yet he was allowed to dwell by himself. You might describe this as "house arrest." 28:16
 - b. 3 days after arriving in Rome, Paul called the leaders of the Jews and declared his innocence to them. 28:17
 1. He told them that the Romans wanted to release him because all along they realized that he was an innocent man. 28:18
 2. He explained that he was forced to appeal to Caesar because of the Jews' continued attempts to accuse him even though he had done nothing against his nation! 28:19
 3. He declared that the only reason that he was imprisoned was that he defended the hope of Israel (he declared that the Promised Messiah had come -- it was Jesus Christ!). 28:20
 4. The Jews in Rome had heard nothing by letter or in person from Judea; they knew nothing about this case; they knew of no charges against him. 28:21
 5. They were eager to hear Paul teach about this "sect" known as the "Nazarenes." They had heard about this movement; however, they did not understand. 28:22

2. **Paul Explained His Mission. 28:23-29**
 - a. On the appointed day, the Jews came to the house where Paul was under house arrest; they came to hear the Gospel. From morning until evening, he taught them from the Law of Moses and the Prophets, showing them that Jesus fulfilled the prophecies about the Messiah and the Church! 28:23
 - b. As occurred everywhere Paul preached, some believed, some did not. 28:24
 - c. Disagreeing, the Jews departed after Paul quoted Is. 6:9,10 which said, "Go to this people and say: 'Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive; ²⁷For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'" 28:25-27
 - d. He then affirmed that God would send the message to the Gentiles who would listen to and accept the Message! 28:28
 - e. The Jews left; great disputation occurred between them. 28:29

3. **(Slide #16) Paul's Opportunities Even While Imprisoned In Rome. 28:30,31**
 - a. He remained under house arrest but was able to welcome any who came to see him. 30
 - b. He taught the Gospel unhindered, telling people about the Kingdom of God and about Jesus Christ!
 - c. Events while in Rome:
 1. God used Paul to preach the Gospel in Rome. Rom. 1:15
 2. Many in Caesar's house itself were converted. Phil. 1:12,13
 3. While there he wrote inspired letters to **PHILEMON**, the **COLOSSIANS**, the **EPHESIANS**, the **Philippians**, and to the **Hebrew** Christians.
 4. History suggests that Paul was released after these two years; he traveled to Jerusalem, then to Spain, then back to Asia Minor where he was later arrested again.

IV. (Slide #17) Lessons From Paul's Arrest And Imprisonment.

A. (►) No Matter What Men May Do To You, God Will Be With You!

B. (►) God Will Take Care Of You!

- C. (▶) There Are Opportunities To Teach Jesus Wherever You Are!
 - 1. It may be in the midst of an angry mob, in a trial, in the midst of a storm, or in prison!
 - 2. You never know who may become a child of God!
- D. (▶) Jesus Is The Calm In The Midst Of The Storms Of Life!
- E. (▶) Good Intentions (And Even Conviction In Heart) Do Not Bring Salvation!
 - 1. Felix wanted to wait for a “Convenient Season”; he never found it; Agrippa was “Almost Persuaded”; yet, he never became a Christian.
 - 2. That is true of so many even today!
 - 3. The road to Hell is paved with “good intentions;” there will be many people who knew and who wanted to obey later but never obeyed Him and were never saved!!!!
 - 4. PLEASE do not allow that to happen to you!