

Chapter Twenty-Eight

Chapter 28

- According to verse 1, the shipwrecked crew, soldiers and prisoners arrived on the island of Malta.
 - This was close to 600 miles from their last position at Crete. It would take quite a storm to carry them that far for so many days.
 - Had they missed the island of Malta and continued to be blown westward it would have been disastrous. There were no more places to land for another 200 miles or so until the coast of Tunisia. Without the ship's tackle to control the ship, they would have certainly perished.
 - The site of their landing in Northeast Malta is today called, "St. Paul's Bay".
- According to verse 2, how was their reception as the shipwrecked stragglers arrived on the beach?

- What happened to Paul in verse 3?
- According to verse 4, what did the local people conclude was the reason for this?
- What did Paul do in verse 5?
 - Would you be as calm as Paul is described here?
- According to verse 6, what did these islanders conclude as they saw Paul suffer no ill effects?
- In verses 7-10, we see Paul and company being offered yet more hospitality.
 - In verse 7, who entertained Paul and company for three days?
 - In verse 8, who was sick and what happened?
 - In verse 9, what was the result of this healing?
 - According to verse 10, what was the overall impact the islanders had on Paul and his traveling companions?
 - How encouraging must it have been for them all?
 - What effect do you think this had on the centurion

and the soldiers?

- After three months and a stop in Sicily, they arrived at mainland Italy.
 - According to verse 14, how were they encouraged?
- Word had spread of Paul's arrival, so what happened in verse 15?
 - What was Paul's response?
- What special arrangement for Paul is stated in verse 16?
 - Apparently, special consideration was given to Paul, perhaps because was a Roman citizen.
 - Also, perhaps the testimony of Julius, the centurion who had accompanied Paul, had some influence.
- In verse 17, Paul begins sharing with the Jewish leadership about his previous trials and the false charges leveled against him.
 - What does Paul say about the claims against him?
 - His claims to have done "nothing against the people or the customs of our fathers" would certainly be

untrue if, as he is often misrepresented today, he was anti-Torah.

- In verse 18, what does Paul state was the conclusion that the Roman authorities had reached regarding the charges against Paul?
- According to verse 19, who forced Paul's hand to appeal to Caesar?
- According to verse 20, how did Paul describe the reason that he was in custody?
 - His characterization of the Messianic faith as "the hope of Israel" demonstrates that he saw continuity with this faith as rooted in the Torah, not a contrast that rejected it.
- In verse 21-22, what did the Jewish leadership say to Paul that would have been comforting to him?
 - What does it mean that even though these Jewish leaders had heard nothing but negative reports about "this sect", referring to the Way, they desired to hear directly from Paul?
- According to verse 23, Paul spent an entire day at his

lodgings entertaining these Jewish seekers.

- What was the primary focus of his message to them?
- What was Paul's primary source material for establishing and persuading them regarding the claims of Yeshua?
- If Paul was anti-Torah, as some current theologians and Bible teachers assert, does this passage make any sense at all?
- According to verse 24, what was the result of Paul's ministry to the Jewish community?
 - Whenever the gospel message is shared, there are always some who accept and some who do not.
 - Success is not determined by a quantitative comparison, but by the fact that the message was faithfully declared, leaving the results to God.
- Verse 25 states that "they didn't agree among themselves", which is a polite way of saying they were arguing.
 - This should not be considered a negative outcome.

- The fact that they were “arguing” means they were talking about it, which is ultimately a good thing.
- It is this “planting of seeds” that God can use to produce faith.
- In verses 25-27, Paul quotes the prophetic passage from Isaiah 6:9-10.
 - This was the same passage of Scripture that Yeshua used in Matthew 13 to explain why many did not understand His parables.
 - Yochanon (John the Baptist) also referred to this to explain why some Jewish people had difficulty accepting the message about Yeshua.
 - How do the descriptions of “calloused hearts”, “dull ears”, and “closed eyes” explain why people today often reject the gospel message?
 - Can it be truly said that these descriptions only apply to Jewish people?
- In verse 28, what does Paul say about this gospel?
 - Does the fact that the good news of salvation being

sent to the gentiles mean that it is no longer for the Jews?

- Why do so many current theologians and Bible teachers think that God has abandoned His people, Israel?
- Consider what the Apostle Paul clearly states in Romans 11:1, “I ask then, did God reject his people? May it never be!”.
- Also, consider Paul’s statement in Romans 11:11-12, “I ask then, did they stumble that they might fall? May it never be! But by their fall salvation has come to the gentiles, to provoke them to jealousy. Now if their fall is the riches of the world, and their loss the riches of the gentiles, how much more is their fulness!”
- According to verse 29, “the Jews departed, having a great dispute among themselves”.
 - Paul faithfully planted the seed of the gospel.
 - Some believed and some did not.
 - He left them with much to discuss among them-

selves for a long time to come.

- They were finally dealing with the gospel and the Messianic claims of Yeshua.
- According to verses 30-31, how long did Paul stay and what did he do?
 - How do you see the grace of God in Paul's life in terms of guidance, provision, granting favor, validating his ministry through miracles and granting him opportunity to advance the gospel message?
- Although Luke's record of Paul ends here, the story of his experience is further related in some of his letters.
 - In Philippians 4:22, Paul writes from Rome, "All the holy ones greet you, especially those who are of Caesar's household". Imagine the influence Paul had during his captivity in Rome!
 - In Philippians 1:12-14 Paul shares, "Now I desire to have you know, brothers, that the things which happened to me have turned out rather to the progress of the Good News, so that it became evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my bonds are in Messiah, and that most of the brothers in the

Lord, being confident through my bonds are more abundantly bold to speak the word of God without fear.”

- Finally, near the end, Paul also writes in 2 Timothy 4:6-8, “For I am already being offered, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course. I have kept the faith. From now on, the crown of righteousness is stored up for me, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that day; and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved his appearing.”
- May we all follow in the steps of Paul and remain faithful to the faith. After all, it was Paul who said, “Be imitators of me, even as I also am of Messiah”.
- According to Yeshua, the Messiah of Israel, “A disciple is not above his Master.”