

Acts 28

On island of Malta beginning in October of 59 AD.

Stayed on island of Malta during November, December and January.

Left Malta for Italy in February of 60 AD.

In Rome from March of 60 AD until sometime in 62 AD.

Total time between arriving in Jerusalem 57 AD until charges are dropped in Rome 62 AD = 5 years
3 years in prison in Caesarea; 2 years under house arrest in Rome.

28:1 – Malta a Mediterranean island 58 miles south of Sicily, 180 miles north of Libya.

- Malta is 17 miles long and 9 miles wide



28:2 – “islanders” is *barbarous*.

- They spoke their native language which would have been a Phoenician dialect since the island (and Carthage, North Africa) would have been settled by the seafaring traders from Phoenicia. But, because of Greek and Rome influence some would have spoken Greek and Latin.
- 276 survivors were cold and wet thus the need for a fire.
- It is late October.

28:3 – “snake” or “viper” is *echidna* which refers to a poisonous snake familiar to the people of Malta.

28:4 – The word “Justice” is capitalized in the NIV because it is the name of the goddess *Dike* in Greek who is “Justice” the daughter of Zeus. She was the one who executed judgment and justice.

28:6 – The islanders know Paul will die. They have seen it before. When he does not, they decide he is a god himself.

28:7 – Archaeology has revealed Greek inscription on Miletus from this time period referring to the chief official of the island by this exact same title used by Luke: “*protos* of the island” or “first man of the island.”

- Luke, Paul, Aristarchus and Julius (the centurion) are invited to stay at Publius’ Mediterranean estate.

28:8 – “fever and dysentery” it was known as *Malta fever* cause by a microbe in goats’ milk. (It is no longer a problem.)

28:11 – Three months on Malta waiting for the winter weather to pass.

- Pliny wrote that navigation begins again when the west winds start to blow on February 8.
- Another Alexandrian ship carrying grain that had arrived before the storm that tore up Paul's ship was docked in the harbor sailing under the symbol of *Dioskouroi*, the twin sons of Zeus and brothers of Helen.
 - Castor and Polydeuces (or, in Latin, Pollux)
 - Known to rescue sailors from drowning
 - Note the potential witness here. The Lord Jesus had actually rescued an entire passenger list of 276 people from drowning. Castor and Pollux didn't.

28:12 – Ship leaves its port in Malta and reaches the southeast coast of Sicily called Syracuse with two ports

- The ship was docked at Syracuse on Sicily for 3 days

28:13 – Seventy miles to Rhegium in southern Italy. There is a 7 mile wide waterway between Italy and Sicily.

- The next day the ship sailed 180 miles up the west coast of Italy with the aid of a south wind.
- Paul and crew arrived at Puteoli the very next day.

28:14 – There were believers in the city of Puteoli. Likely because this is a heavily traveled area and many people have passed through this port. Likely the Christian community came out of a synagogue influence by believers from Jerusalem, Ephesus, Alexandria, etc.

- Julius (the centurion) apparently called for a 7 day military halt now that they are off the ship and back in Italy.
- As in Sidon, Julius (the centurion) gives Paul permission to visit the believers in Puteoli. Luke and Aristarchus accompany him. It is likely that Julius accompanied Paul since Julius was Paul's official guard.

28:15 – Believers from as far away as Rome, the Forum of Appius (a market city about 45 miles from Rome on the Appian Way and a typical stopping point for travelers a day away from Rome) and the Three Taverns (30 miles south of Rome on the Appian Way) came to "meet" Paul in Puteoli.



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