

Acts 27:41-28:17, Malta and On to Rome
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Overview

1. The trip begins and ends with Paul refreshed by his Christian friends.
 2. In between, three episodes show the Lord's continued work through Paul:
 - a) the conference at Fair Havens;
 - b) the storm on the sea (itself an inclusio between losing and regaining control);
 - c) the three months at Malta.
 3. This time: Malta and the final round of encouragement.
- A. 27:41-28:10, On Melita = Malta: Paul as Miracle Worker**
- Luke recounts three classes of miracles here, that cover the range of divine intervention. A swelling wave of God's power that finally breaks out. Curiously, he says nothing about something we might have expected.
1. Favor at the hands of men, some of ill will. Compare the earlier part of the voyage.
 - a) Protection from the soldiers, 27:43. (Cf. other instances of Julius' kindness to Paul: liberty at Sidon, 27:3; liberty at Puteoli, 28:14; his influence may have led to house arrest rather than prison in 28:16).
 - b) Hospitality from the Maltans.
 - 1) Fire in v.2
 - 2) Reception by Publius, v.7
 - 3) Send-off, v.10 (everything would have been lost in the wreck)
 - c) *Application*: God sways the hearts of men--not just his children, but all people. If "king's heart is in the hand of the Lord like the rivers of water," Prov. 21:1, how much more that of common folk? We should not despair at political turmoils, but trust in God.
 2. Second: protection from natural hazards. Compare protection during the voyage.
 - a) The sea in 27:44
 - b) The serpent in 28:3
 - c) *Application*: God can defend us from natural forces as well as from human ones. He has not wound up the world to let it go. Rather, every moment it operates under his supervision.
 3. First class: healings.

Publius' father and others, 28:8-9. Deliberate action taken by Paul (with support from Luke? v.10, "honored us").

Application: The climax of the evidence of God's work through Paul in this journey.

4. The missing miracle: three months and no church? Shows that it is God, not Paul, who makes churches; we will see churches in Rome where Paul has never been, and not everywhere that Paul went (even during the miss'y journeys) did a church spring up. We can be sure he bore witness to those who benefited from the healings, but the Spirit was not pleased to grant fruit here.

B. 11-16, On to Rome--Paul's friends again.

Records four stages of his final approach to Rome, each accompanied by increased spiritual activity.

1. 11-13, To landfall on Italy--no brethren. Picked up another Alexandrian grain ship that had spent the winter on Malta.
2. Puteoli--"we found brethren" (port of Rome; 140 miles from the city, near present Naples; Ostia, at the mouth of the Tiber, was too silty for a major harbor). They desired his fellowship.
 - a) Appears that Luke and Paul sought them out; they would have had no way of knowing that Paul was coming.
 - b) But when they learn he is there, they ask him to visit for a week, and apparently send word on ahead to Rome (140 miles down the road).
 - c) Note Julius' continued courtesy, in letting them delay their trip.
 - d) "Thus we came to Rome"--Luke counts this the arrival, since they are now within the broader territory of the city.
 - e) *Application*: Our receptiveness to unexpected visiting believers. Recognize them as sent by God for our help and blessing.
3. 15, Greetings along the way
The two stops mentioned are 40 miles out (Ap. Forum) and then 30 (Three Taverns). Thus each is 90 miles or so from Rome.
 - a) In response to the news from Puteoli, two groups had set out to greet Paul.
Application: Are we this eager in our fellowship for one another?
 - b) Note the effect on Paul: he took courage. It meant something to him. They had a real ministry to him, as he had anticipated in Rom. 1:12 (perhaps only a courtesy when he wrote it, but how much the events of the past several years have made him ready for comfort!).
4. 16, arrival into the city, leading to the conference with the Jewish leaders in the end of the chapter. Refreshed by the ministry of believers along the way, his batteries are now

charged and ready for his testimony in Rome.

Summary

1. God's hands aren't tied in any sphere, whether dealing with the hearts of men, or protecting us from "natural" adversaries, or working through us to glorify himself. Expect miracles.
2. Recognize both the comfort you have to give to God's people, and your own need for such encouragement and comfort. The thoughtfulness of simple brethren along the road to Rome strengthens Paul for his testimony to the Jewish elders.

Psalm: 133

Analysis

- A. 27:41-28:10, On Melita = Malta: providential care for Paul
NB: apparently no evangelistic success here! Not even any record of preaching. ???
1. 27:41-28:2, To land and shelter
 - a) 41 peripeso/ntes de\ ei)s to/pon diqa/lasson e)pe/keilan th\n nau^n,
 - b) kai\ h(me\n prw^|ra e)rei/sasa e)/meinen a)sa/leutos,
 - c) h(de\ pru/mna e)lu/eto u(po\ th^s bi/as [tw^n kuma/twn].
 - d) contrast p
 - 1) thesis: 42 tw^n de\ stratiwtw^n boulh\ e)ge/neto i(/na tou\s desmw/tas a)poktei/nwsin, mh/ tis e)kkolumbh/sas diafu/gh|:
 - 2) antithesis: Julius
 - a> 43 o(de\ e(katonta/rxhs boulo/menos diasw^sai to\n Pau^lon e)kw/lusen au)tou\s tou^ boulh/matos,
 - b> e)ke/leuse/n te tou\s duname/nous kolumba^na)pori/yantas prw/tous e)pi\ th\n gh^n e)cie/nai, 44 kai\ tou\s loipou\s ou(\s me\n e)pi\ sani/sin ou(\s de\ e)pi/ tinwn tw^n a)po\ tou^ ploi/ou:
 - e) kai\ ou(/tws e)ge/neto pa/ntas diaswqh^nai e)pi\ th\n gh^n.
 - f) 28:1 Kai\ diaswqe/ntes to/te e)pe/gnwmen o(/ti Meli/th h(nh^sos kalei^tai.
Cf. 39; we often don't know the nature of our deliverance until after it happens; else we might take credit for it!
 2. 3-10, Signs and Wonders in Melita
 - a) 2, Initial Kindnesses
 - 1) 2 oi(/ de MT ba/rbaroi parei^xon ou) th\n tuxou^san filanqrwpi/an h(mi^n,
 - 2) a(/yantes ga\r pura\n prosela/bonto pa/ntas h(ma^s dia\ to\n u(eto\n to\n e)festw^ta kai\ dia\ to\ yu^xos.
 - b) 3-6, The Serpent
 - 1) 3 sustre/yantos de\ tou^ Pau/lou fruga/nwn ti plh^qos kai\ e)piqe/ntos e)pi\ th\n pura/n, e)/xidna a)po\ th^s qe/rmhs

- e) celqou^sa kaqh^yen th^s xeiro\s au)tou^.
- 2) quote p
 a> time: 4 w(s de\ ei)^don oi(ba/rbaroi krema/menon to\ qhri/on e)k th^s xeiro\s au)tou^,
 b> quote f: pro\s a)llh/lous e)/legon,
 c> quote: comment p
 1> Pa/ntws foneu/s e)stin o(a)/nqrwpos ou(^tos
 2> comment <(o anqrwpos>: o(\n diaswqe/nta e)k th^s qala/sshs h(di/kh zh^n ou)k ei)/asen.
- 3) contrast p (men-de)
 a> 5 o(me\n ou)^n a)potina/cas to\ qhri/on ei)s to\ pu^r e)/pagen ou)de\n kako/n:
 b> 6 oi(de\ prosedo/kwn au)to\n me/llein pi/mprasqai h)\ katapi/ptein a)/fnw nekro/n.
- 4) time p
 a> time: e)pi\ polu\ de\ au)tw^n prosdokw/ntwn kai\ qewrou/ntwn mhde\n a)/topon ei)s au)to\n gino/menon,
 b> text: metabalo/menoi e)/legon au)to\n ei)^nai qeo/n.
- c) 7-8, Publius' Father
 1) setting: comment p
 a> text: 7)En de\ toi^s peri\ to\n to/pon e)kei^non u(ph^rxen xwri/a tw^| prw/tw| th^s nh/sou o)no/mati Popli/w|,
 b> comment <Popliw>: o(\s a)nadeca/menos h(ma^s trei^s h(me/ras filofro/nws e)ce/nisen.
 2) 8 e)ge/neto de\ to\n pate/ra tou^ Popli/ou puretoi^s kai\ dusenteri/w| sunexo/menon katakei^sqai,
 3) pro\s o(\n o(Pau^los ei)selqw\n kai\ proseuca/menos e)piqei\s ta\s xei^ras au)tw^| i)a/sato au)to/n.
- d) 9, Other healings
 1) 9 tou/tou de\ genome/nou kai\ oi(loipoi\ oi(e)n th^| nh/sw| e)/xontes a)sqenei/as prosh/rxonto
 2) kai\ e)qerapeu/onto,
- e) 10, departing kindnesses
 1) 10 oi(\ kai\ pollai^s timai^s e)ti/mhsan h(ma^s
 2) kai\ a)nagome/nois e)pe/qento ta\ pro\s ta\s xrei/as.
Replaces the things Paul lost during the wreck
- B. 11-16, On to Rome--Paul's friends again.
1. To landfall on Italy--no brethren
 a) 11 Meta\ de\ trei^s mh^nas a)nh/xqhmen e)n ploi/w| parakexeimako/ti e)n th^| nh/sw|)Alecandri/nw|, parash/mw| Dioskou/rois.
 b) 12 kai\ kataxqe/ntes ei)s Surakou/sas e)pemei/namen h(me/ras trei^s,
 c) 13 o(/gen perielo/ntes kathnth/samen ei)s (Rh/gion.
 2. Puteoli--"we found brethren" (port of Rome; near present Naples)
 They desired his fellowship.
 a) kai\ meta\ mi/an h(me/ran e)pigenome/nou no/tou deuteraioi h)/lqomen ei)s Potio/lous,
 b) 14 ou(^ eu(ro/ntes a)delfou\s pareklh/qhmen par' au)toi^s

- e)pimei^nai h(me/ras e(pta/:
- 1) Cf. Tyre, 21:3,4.
 - 2) Gave time for word to go to Rome that Paul was on his way
 - 3) Kindness of Julius to Paul
- c) kai\ ou(/tws ei)s th\n (Rw/mhn h)/lqamen. (the region)
3. Greetings along the way
They went out of their way to greet him.
- a) 15 ka)kei^qen oi(a)delfoi\ a)kou/santes ta\ peri\ h(mw^
h)^lqan ei)s a)pa/nthsin h(mi^
n a)/xri)Appi/ou Fo/rou kai\
Triw^
n Tabernw^
n,
 - b) ou(\s i)dw\n o(Pau^
los eu)xaristh/sas tw^
| qew^
| e)/labe
qa/rsos.
4. specification p--arrival into the city.
- a) time: 16 (/Ote de\ ei)sh/lqomen ei)s (Rw/mhn,
 - b) general: (o ekatonarxos paredwke tous desmious tw
stratopedarxw
 - c) specific: tw^
| de Pau/lw^
| e)petra/ph me/nein kaq' e(auto\
n
su\
n tw^
| fula/ssonti au)to\
n stratiw/th|.