

Acts Chapter 28 Handout - final chapter-Paul's Destiny Realized.

v.1-6 - The people found on the island were called barbarians not because they were uncivilized but because they did not speak Greek and the language they spoke sounded like bar-bar-bar to those who spoke Greek. The islanders kindly helped those who were shipwrecked and cold and built them a fire. Paul helped build the fire and a poisonous snake, probably dormant among the wood, came out of the fire and attached itself to Paul's hand with its teeth. The islanders superstitiously thought Paul was a murderer getting the punishment he had escaped by not dying at sea. Justice was a reference to the goddess who held the scales. When Paul did not swell up or drop dead they then thought he was a god. Close! He had God on the inside of him and the promise of God's protection. Mark 16:18- ye shall take up serpents...it shall not hurt them. Besides, God had a plan for Paul.

v.7-10-Publius was the chief man of the island who extended hospitality to Paul and his companions for three days. Publius father was sick with a fever and bloody flux. Fever was common occurrence to those who drank unsterilized milk of diseased goats. The bloody flux was dysentery, inflammation in the intestines characterized by pain and diarrhea with bloody, mucous feces. Paul prayed and lay hands (only time healing in Acts occurred in this way) and he was miraculously healed. After that the islanders brought their sick. But Luke probably set up a clinic and treated them. When Paul prayed for healing the word used was *iasato* (from *iaomai* for healed). When others were healed the word used is *etherapeuonto* (from *therapeuo*) which means they were cured by medical means. Paul and Luke prepared to leave the island, the islanders honored them with many honors which in Greek implied payment for services. The ministry was probably a combination of prayer and treatment. Other bibles say the father was healed but the people were cured. God can work through the knowledge he has given to physicians, but we know that ultimately God is our healer.

v.11-16-after 3 months they boarded an Alexandrian ship which had wintered on the island. Twins Pollux and Castor, the sailors protectors, the Gemini. The travelers first land at SYRACUSE on SICILY, 3 days, then on to RHEGIUM, 1 day, then PUTEOLI, where they stayed 7 days with believers. Going by land from their believers from Rome came 43 miles to the Market of Appius on the Appian Way to meet them and then 33 miles from Rome to the Three Taverns. This encouraged Paul. Then in Rome Paul was allowed to dwell by himself with a guard.

v. 17-31-As always Paul wanted to talk with the Jews first and ask after 3 days that the chiefs of the Jews would come to him. "My brothers I am here not to indict my people but to defend myself. I am in bonds because I believe in the hope of Israel" Paul recounts to them the circumstances of his arrest and imprisonment. But the Jews there have not received any communication about Paul. But they do want to talk with him about this sect that everyone is against. The Jews come another day and Paul uses the scriptures to convince them that Jesus is the Messiah. Some believe but most reject the gospel. Paul quotes Isaiah 6:9,10. They have ears but can't hear the truth....but salvation is also sent to the Gentiles and they will hear. The Jews

leave. Paul stays in a rented house for 2 years, house arrest, preaching the gospel. He eventually comes before Nero and is acquitted. He leaves and goes on his fourth missionary journey. A few years later he is imprisoned again in Rome and beheaded by Nero.