### Acts

## Chapter 28

1Well, after we made it to safety, we recognized that this was the island of Well, after we made it to safety, we recognized that this was the island of <span class="placename">MaltaWell, after we made it to safety, we recognized that this was the island of <span class="placename">Malta</span>! 2There the native people found us and showed us uncommon hospitality, building a fire and welcoming all of us, there in the cold and the rain.  
  
3Then when Paul went and collected a bundle of sticks and laid it on the fire, a viper was driven out by the heat, which bit into his hand! 4And when the native people saw this dangerous animal hanging from his hand, they said to each other:  
  
 ‘This man must be a murderer! Because even though he made it safely from the sea, justice isn’t going to let him live!’  
  
5But [Paul] just shook the animal off into the fire, and he didn’t suffer any ill effects… 6Even though they thought that he was going to swell up and suddenly drop dead.  
  
However, after they’d waited a long time and saw that nothing bad had happened to him, they started saying that he was [a] god!  
  
  
7Fortunately, there was some property located nearby that belonged to the island’s leader ([a man] named Publius). He also welcomed us and treated us kindly and hospitably for the next three days.  
  
8Then, when Publius’ father became very sick with a fever and dysentery, Paul went into his room and prayed, then he laid his hands on him and healed him.  
  
9Well after that, the rest of the sick people on the island also started coming to him to be cured, 10honoring us with many gifts, and several brought us provisions that we’d need.  
  
  
  
11It was three months later that a boat from It was three months later that a boat from <span class="placename">AlexandriaIt was three months later that a boat from <span class="placename">Alexandria</span> called The Sons of Zeus (which had been wintering on the island) finally took us aboard 12and carried us to and carried us to <span class="placename">Syracuseand carried us to <span class="placename">Syracuse</span>, where we stayed for three days.  
  
13Then from there, we traveled around [Then from there, we traveled around [<span class="placename">SicilyThen from there, we traveled around [<span class="placename">Sicily</span>] and arrived at Then from there, we traveled around [<span class="placename">Sicily</span>] and arrived at <span class="placename">RheggiumThen from there, we traveled around [<span class="placename">Sicily</span>] and arrived at <span class="placename">Rheggium</span>. And a day after that, we caught a south wind and made it to Then from there, we traveled around [<span class="placename">Sicily</span>] and arrived at <span class="placename">Rheggium</span>. And a day after that, we caught a south wind and made it to <span class="placename">PuteoliThen from there, we traveled around [<span class="placename">Sicily</span>] and arrived at <span class="placename">Rheggium</span>. And a day after that, we caught a south wind and made it to <span class="placename">Puteoli</span> in just two days, 14where we found some of our brothers who begged us to stay with them for the next seven days.  
  
Then from there, we traveled on to Then from there, we traveled on to <span class="placename">RomeThen from there, we traveled on to <span class="placename">Rome</span>.  
  
  
  
  
15Well, when the brothers [in Well, when the brothers [in <span class="placename">RomeWell, when the brothers [in <span class="placename">Rome</span>] got the news about us, they came as far as the Well, when the brothers [in <span class="placename">Rome</span>] got the news about us, they came as far as the <span class="placename">Market of AppiusWell, when the brothers [in <span class="placename">Rome</span>] got the news about us, they came as far as the <span class="placename">Market of Appius</span> and Well, when the brothers [in <span class="placename">Rome</span>] got the news about us, they came as far as the <span class="placename">Market of Appius</span> and <span class="placename">the Three ShopsWell, when the brothers [in <span class="placename">Rome</span>] got the news about us, they came as far as the <span class="placename">Market of Appius</span> and <span class="placename">the Three Shops</span> to meet us.  
  
And when Paul saw them, he thanked God, because he was very encouraged!  
  
16Then when we finally entered Then when we finally entered <span class="placename">RomeThen when we finally entered <span class="placename">Rome</span>, they allowed Paul to live on his own, with just a soldier to guard him.  
  
  
17Then three days later, he called a meeting of the local Jewish leaders. And after they’d assembled, he said this to them:  
  
 ‘Men… Brothers… Although I haven’t done anything against our people or against the customs of our ancestors, I was taken prisoner in ‘Men… Brothers… Although I haven’t done anything against our people or against the customs of our ancestors, I was taken prisoner in <span class="placename">JeruSalem ‘Men… Brothers… Although I haven’t done anything against our people or against the customs of our ancestors, I was taken prisoner in <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span> and handed over to the ‘Men… Brothers… Although I haven’t done anything against our people or against the customs of our ancestors, I was taken prisoner in <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span> and handed over to the <span class="placename">Romans ‘Men… Brothers… Although I haven’t done anything against our people or against the customs of our ancestors, I was taken prisoner in <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span> and handed over to the <span class="placename">Romans</span>.  
  
 18‘But after [the ‘But after [the <span class="placename">Romans‘But after [the <span class="placename">Romans</span>] examined me, they wanted to release me, because they couldn’t find any reason to put me to death.  
  
 19‘However, when the ‘However, when the <span class="placename">Judeans‘However, when the <span class="placename">Judeans</span> kept opposing [my release], I was forced to appeal to Caesar… Although I didn’t do this to accuse my nation.  
  
 20‘Well, this is why I begged to see you and to talk to you… For it’s because of the hopes of ‘Well, this is why I begged to see you and to talk to you… For it’s because of the hopes of <span class="placename">IsraEl‘Well, this is why I begged to see you and to talk to you… For it’s because of the hopes of <span class="placename">IsraEl</span> that I have this chain around me!’  
  
21Then they told [Paul]:  
  
 ‘We haven’t received any letters about you from ‘We haven’t received any letters about you from <span class="placename">Judea ‘We haven’t received any letters about you from <span class="placename">Judea</span>, nor have any of the brothers who’ve arrived from there reported or said anything bad against you. 22So we think it’s worthwhile for us to listen to what you’ve got to say, because we know for a fact that this sect is being spoken against everywhere.’  
  
  
23Well after that, they arranged for a day when many more could come to hear him at the place where he was staying. And there he laid things out for them by completely testifying about the Kingdom of God.  
  
Paul also reasoned with them about Jesus from morning until evening, citing both the Law of Moses and the Prophets. 24But although some started to believe what he was saying, the rest didn’t. 25And since they couldn’t reach a consensus, they all got ready to leave.  
  
So Paul said this:  
  
 ‘The Holy Breath [of God] spoke very accurately to your ancestors through IsaiAh the Prophet, when he said:  
  
 26‘You must go to these people and say:  
  
 ‘When you listen, you’ll hear,  
 But not understand.  
 And when you look, you’ll look,  
 But not see.’  
  
 27‘For these peoples’ hearts are all closed.  
 So, although they can hear with their ears,  
 They just won’t respond,  
 And they’ll have eyes that are closed.  
  
 ‘Thus, although they have eyes, they can’t see,  
 Nor can they hear with their ears  
 Or understand with their hearts and return,  
 So I can bring healing to them.’  
  
 [paraphrase or different version of Isaiah 6:9-10]  
  
 28‘Therefore, I’m warning you that God is now giving this hope of salvation to the gentiles… And they’ll listen to it!’ 29And when he’d said these words, the Jews left, and greatly arguing among themselves. [spurious text]  
  
  
30Well, he stayed in that Well, he stayed in that <span class="placename">rented houseWell, he stayed in that <span class="placename">rented house</span> for two whole years, welcoming everyone who came to visit him, 31telling them about the Kingdom of God and teaching them things about the Lord Jesus the Anointed One openly and without any interference.

# Romans

A letter to the Christian congregation of Rome.  
  
It was written by the Apostle Paul through his secretary Tertius, possibly in Aramaic, sometime in the middle of the 1st Century CE.