
8. Paul in Rome

Acts 21:17- 28:31

- Paul in Jerusalem – Tells James and all the elders of the work of the Gentiles (Acts 21:17-26)
 - Elders plan – purify yourself in the temple – look like a devout Jew
 - Paul complies
- Paul beaten and bound by angry mob (Acts 21:27-36)
 - Jews from Asia stir up trouble (vs.27)
 - Accuse him on bringing Gentiles into the temple – (almost as if the Elders plan makes it worse)
 - Paul beaten and chained
- Paul on trial before the tribune (Claudius Lysias (23:26) Commander of the Roman Garrison in Jerusalem (Acts 21:37-40)
 - Paul convinces the tribune to let him speak to the Jews
- Paul's dialogue to the Jews (Acts 22:1-21)
 - Paul recounts his testimony
 - Paul tells them that His plan was interrupted by God's plan
 - Ananias tells Paul he **will be** my Witness to the Gentiles (vs. 15)
 - **Acts 1:8 (KJV)** - But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
- Paul and the tribune
 - Stretched out to be whipped (to uncover the reason for the hatred) (Acts 22:22-30)
 - Paul claims Roman Citizenship
 - Unlawful for the tribune to whip him without cause
- Paul and the Chief priests and Council (to uncover the reason for the hatred (Acts 22:30-23:10)
 - Paul's outburst towards the high priest Ananias (vs. 2-5)
 - Paul creates a riot between the Pharisees and the Sadducees
 - Paul identifies as a Pharisee
 - Paul prisoned
- the Lord appears to Paul (Acts 23:11)
 - You have testified about me in Jerusalem, now you must testify about me in Rome
 - **Must: BLB Definition** - *necessity established by the counsel and decree of God, especially by that purpose of his which relates to the salvation of men by the intervention of Christ and which is disclosed in the Old Testament prophecies*
 - **Matthew 24:6** - And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all *these things* must [G1163](#) come to pass, but the end is not yet.
 - **Mark 8:31** - And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must [G1163](#) suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.
 - **Mark 13:10** - And the gospel must [G1163](#) first be published among all nations.

- Plot to kill Paul (Acts 23:12-22)
 - More than 40 Jews took oath to kill Paul
 - Asked to have him transported so they could ambush him
 - Paul's nephew discovers plan
 - Alerts tribune
- Paul moved by night to Felix the Governor (Acts 23:23-35)
 - 200 soldiers, 70 horsemen and 200 spearmen to guard Paul
 - The tribune writes a letter telling Felix that Paul is being accused about questions of the Jewish law
 - Paul transported to Caesarea and guarded in Herod's Praetorium
- Paul Before Felix the Governor (Acts 24:1-21)
 - The High Priest Ananias makes his case first before Felix (Acts 24:1-9)
 - Paul is a plague
 - Stirs up riots
 - Ringleader of the sect of the Nazarene's
 - He tried to profane the temple.
 - Paul's defense (Acts 24:10-21)
 - **Only 12 days ago** I was in the temple – check with the witnesses I did not disrupt anybody.
 - Paul identifies with the Jewish faith (vs. 14) – The God of our fathers. There will be a resurrection
 - Paul confesses to having stirred up a riot in the council between the Pharisees and the Sadducees (Acts 23:6-10)
 - Felix refuses to decide Paul's case (Acts 24:22-27)
 - Paul left with visitation privileges for **2 years**
 - Felix is succeeded by Poircius Festus
- Festus hears from Paul – Paul appeals to Caesar (Acts 25:1-12)
 - Festus hears of Paul from the High Priest & Chief men of the Jews
 - Festus hears from Paul and his accusers, proclaims a trial in Jerusalem
 - Paul appeals to Caesar
- King Herod Agrippa visits the new governor Festus (Acts 25:13-27)
 - Festus lays out the case of a man without a crime
 - (vs. 27) it seems unreasonable to send a man to Caesar without specifying the charges against him.
- King Herod Agrippa hears Paul's testimony (Acts 26:1-23)
 - Paul retells his entire story
 - Paul weaves Jesus and salvation into the story of his life
 - Agrippa, "You almost persuaded me to become a Christian." (vs. 28)
 - Send him to Caesar
- The voyage to Rome (Acts 27)
 - Paul warns of the storm
 - Angel appears to Paul – tells him they will be spared (vs. 23-24)
 - Shipwreck on Malta – all of the prisoners and crew were spared
- Malta (Acts 28:1-10)

- Paul heals many on Malta
- No doubt shares the Gospel with the people on Malta
- Paul arrives in Rome (Acts 28:11-31)
 - Paul allowed to stay by himself in Rome
 - Paul gathers the Jewish leaders in Rome (vs. 23-28)
 - Paul tells them of the kingdom of God and of Jesus
 - Some were convinced – others disbelieved (vs. 24)
 - Paul proclaims that because of their disbelief this Gospel will go to the Gentiles (vs. 28) – climax to the book of Acts. After all of this effort to carry the Gospel to the Jews in Rome, they reject the message. The message will, from here forward go to the Gentiles.
 - Vs. 30 & 31 – Paul lived in Rome for 2 years (at his own expense) welcoming all who came to him proclaiming Jesus with all boldness and without hindrance.

Acts 28:30-31 - ³⁰ And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, ³¹ Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

God's Time

These chapters cover not less than 4 years of Paul's life.

He went from being a free man traveling around Asia starting churches and witnessing, some rejecting and beating him and hating him, but to all he met preaching with great power and the presence of God....

....to spending at least two years in prison, enduring beatings, attempts on his life, and trials over charges that were meritless.

Which of these two would you think would accomplish God's plan more? Which would you want to be a part of? The beatings were there in both cases, the opposition in both, and the power and hand of God in both.

Perhaps this is what he meant when he said in Philippians 4:11-13 that he knows how to endure all things.

Philippians 4:11-13

¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

Vs 13 is the rest of the paragraph and is perhaps one of the most miss-quoted verses in the Bible.

¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

God works out his own plan through ways that are very different than our ways.

Isaiah 55:8-9

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

God's timing is different than ours as well. We tend to look at things in short stretches. Wanting resolution to our troubles in a quick period of time. We are accustomed to seeing problems and resolution all within a 45-minute episode (complete with 6-8 commercials) God doesn't always work that way –

2 Peter 3:8-9

⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you,^[a] not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Seen through God's eyes

Paul's life, through the eyes of man is a failure and a disaster. He was born and raised in a promising manner. He was taught at the feet of one of the most respected teachers of the time. And (he) was advancing in Judaism beyond many of (his) own age among my people (Galatians 1:14) – but he met Christ, and from an earthly perspective wiped out his life and accomplishments ending in a roman prison hated by the Jews.

Through God's eyes – valuable

Philippians 3:8b -10

⁸For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

Psalms 90

A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place^[a]
in all generations.

² Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

³ You return man to dust
and say, "Return, O children of man!"^[b]

⁴ For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.

⁵ You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning:

⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

⁷ For we are brought to an end by your anger;
by your wrath we are dismayed.

⁸ You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

⁹ For all our days pass away under your wrath;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰ The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span^[c] is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

¹¹ Who considers the power of your anger,
and your wrath according to the fear of you?

¹² So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

¹³ Return, O LORD! How long?
Have pity on your servants!

¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁵ Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.

¹⁶ Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

¹⁷ Let the favor^[d] of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!