



**3** **WHAT THE BIBLE IS ABOUT**

**Book of Acts**  
Part 10 – Chap. 23:36-27

A dark blue rectangular box containing the number "3" in a large, white, sans-serif font on the left. To its right, the text "WHAT THE BIBLE IS ABOUT" is written in a white, serif font, with "BIBLE" being the largest word. Below this, a white-bordered box contains the text "Book of Acts" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, and "Part 10 – Chap. 23:36-27" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it.



## KEY THEME

Jesus offers  
salvation to  
everyone.

Acts

## KEY VERSE

- <sup>7</sup> And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.
- <sup>8</sup> But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8

## The book of Acts in two acts

### THE MINISTRY OF PETER (Chapters 1-12)

- Peter and the Jews, Acts 1—7
- Peter and the Samaritans, Acts 8
- The conversion of Paul, Acts 9
- Peter and the Gentiles, Acts 10—11
- Peter's arrest and deliverance, Acts 12

### THE MINISTRY OF PAUL (Chapter 13-28)

- Paul's first missionary journey, Acts 13—14
- The Council of Jerusalem, Acts 15
- Paul's second missionary journey, 16:1—18:22
- Paul's third missionary journey, 18:23—21:25
- Paul's arrest and trial in Caesarea, 21:26—26:31
- Paul's voyage to Rome, Acts 27-28

## Seven Progress Reports

1. ~~“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47).~~
2. ~~“So the Word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly” (Acts 6:7).~~
3. ~~“Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria...was strengthened; and [it was] encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord” (Acts 9:31).~~
4. ~~“But the Word of God continued to increase and spread” (Acts 12:24).~~
5. ~~“So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers” (Acts 16:5).~~
6. ~~“In this way the Word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power” (Acts 19:20).~~
7. “Paul...welcomed all who came to see him. Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 28:30-31).

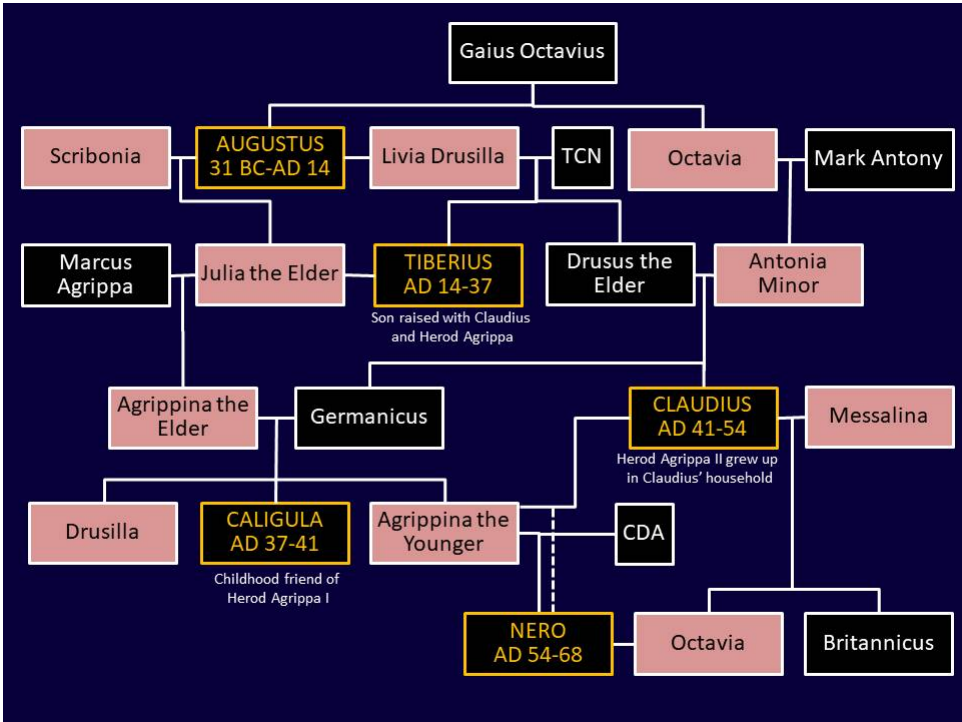
*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and **unto the uttermost part of the earth.***  
Acts 1:8



## The Acts of Paul

13-28









**I APPEAL UNTO CAESAR**

*"For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die: but if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I appeal unto Caesar."*  
*"Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, 'Hast thou appealed unto Caesar? Unto Caesar shalt thou go'."* (Acts 25: 11-12)

*"And on the morrow, when Agrippa was come, and Bernice, with great pomp, and was entered into the place of hearing, with the chief captains and principal men of the city, at Festus' commandment Paul was brought forth."* (Acts 25:23)

In 58 A.D. the Apostle Paul, accused of having caused a riot, was sent to Caesarea to be tried by the governor. Being a Roman citizen, Paul demanded to be heard at the Emperor's court. He sailed to Rome from Caesarea's harbor. There he was tried and a few years later executed.

**את הקיסר אני קורא לדיני**

אם הורגתי ויש בי דבר משפט-מוות, כל-אחשך נשמי בטוח, ואם אין בי מאונד בכל אשר הם קונים בי, איש לא יוכל להמריני אל ידם. את הקיסר אני קורא לדיני. ויעזב פסוקים עם ויעשו ויען אתו לאמור: את הקיסר קראת אל הקיסר תלך". (משפטי הוליוודים, כ"ח: 11-12)

יידו משרתי כבוד אנשים וברניקה בבוד דגלי, ויביאו אל אוילם המשטעה המה וקרי האלק ונגדי העיר, ויעו פסוקים ויביאו את פאולוס". (משפטי הוליוודים, כ"ח: 23)

בשנת 58 לספירה העלה הקיסר פאולוס בארץ ישראל וביצע את משפטו. כיוון שפאולוס היה אז אזרח רומאי, דרש פאולוס להישפט בבית דין הקיסרי. הוא נסע לרומה ונשפט שם. שנה לאחר מכן נהרג פאולוס.



## Acts 24

### Accused of Sediton

- <sup>1</sup> Now after five days Ananias the high priest came down with the elders and a certain orator *named* Tertullus. These gave evidence to the governor against Paul.
- <sup>2</sup> And when he was called upon, Tertullus began his accusation, saying:

### QUOTE

“Seeing that through you we enjoy great peace, and prosperity is being brought to this nation by your foresight, <sup>3</sup> we accept *it* always and in all places, most noble Felix, with all thankfulness <sup>4</sup> Nevertheless, not to be tedious to you any further, I beg you to hear, by your courtesy, a few words from us.

- <sup>5</sup> For we have found this man a plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.

### ad hominem

(of an argument or reaction) directed against a person rather than the position they are maintaining.

- <sup>6</sup> He even tried to profane the temple, and we seized him, and wanted to judge him according to our law.
- <sup>7</sup> But the commander Lysias came by and with great violence took *him* out of our hands, <sup>8</sup> commanding his accusers to come to you.

By examining him yourself you may ascertain all these things of which we accuse him.”

- <sup>9</sup> And the Jews also assented, maintaining that these things were so.



### The Defense Before Felix

<sup>10</sup>Then Paul, after the governor had nodded to him to speak, answered:



“Inasmuch as I know that you have been for many years a judge of this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself, <sup>11</sup>because you may ascertain that it is no more than twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem to worship. <sup>12</sup>And they neither found me in the temple disputing with anyone nor inciting the crowd, either in the synagogues or in the city. <sup>13</sup>Nor can they prove the things of which they now accuse me.

<sup>14</sup>But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets.

<sup>15</sup> I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of *the* dead, both of *the* just and *the* unjust. <sup>16</sup> This *being* so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

<sup>17</sup> "Now after many years I came to bring alms and offerings to my nation, <sup>18</sup> in the midst of which some Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, neither with a mob nor with tumult. <sup>19</sup> They ought to have been here before you to object if they had anything against me. <sup>20</sup> Or else let those who are *here* themselves say if they found any wrongdoing in me while I stood before the council, <sup>21</sup> unless *it is* for this one statement which I cried out, standing among them, 'Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judged by you this day.' "

Paul

I HEREBY SWEAR & AFFIRM THAT THIS TESTIMONY IS THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH, AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH.



### CHARGES AND SPECIFICATIONS

<sup>5</sup> For we have found this man a plague,

**PERSONAL (AD HOMINUM) CHARGE**

a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world

**POLITICAL CHARGE**

and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.

**DOCTRINAL CHARGES**

<sup>6</sup> He even tried to profane the temple, and we seized him, and wanted to judge him according to our law

<sup>7</sup> But the commander Lysias came by and with great violence took *him* out of our hands, <sup>8</sup> commanding his accusers to come to you.

**KEEPING THE PEACE**

### PAUL'S FACTUAL TESTIMONY

it is no more than twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem to worship. <sup>12</sup> And they neither found me disputing nor inciting anyone. <sup>13</sup> Nor can they prove the things of which they now accuse me. <sup>19</sup> They ought to have been here before you to object if they had anything against me.

<sup>14</sup> But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and the Prophets. <sup>15</sup> I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of *the* dead, both of *the* just and *the* unjust.

<sup>17</sup> "After many years I came to bring alms and offerings to my nation, <sup>18</sup> in the midst of which some Jews found me purified in the temple, without mob or tumult.

<sup>20</sup> Let those who are *here* themselves say if they found any wrongdoing in me while I stood before the council, <sup>21</sup> unless *it is* for one statement, 'Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judged by you this day.' "

## Felix Procrastinates

<sup>22</sup> But when Felix heard these things, having more accurate knowledge of *the Way*, he adjourned the proceedings and said, “When Lysias the commander comes down, I will make a decision on your case.”

<sup>23</sup> So he commanded the centurion to keep Paul and to let *him* have liberty, and told him not to forbid any of his friends to provide for or visit him.

<sup>24</sup> And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.



Antoine Caron (1527-1599)



Antonius Felix



Drusilla probably wanted to hear Paul. Her family had been involved with “the Way” on several occasions:



Great grand father

### Herod the Great

Ordered killing of all boy babies in Bethlehem in order to kill Jesus and his harbinger John the Baptist. Killed 3 of his own sons. (Matthew 2)



Great uncle

### Herod Antipas

Rebuked by John the Baptist for marrying Herodias against Law of Moses. Later killed John the Baptist and mocked Jesus at trial. (Luke 23:6–12)



Father

### Herod Agrippa I

Killed James, son of Zebedee. Imprisoned Peter before Peter's escape. Died of worms. (Acts 12:1–2)



Auntie

### Herodias

Rebuked by John the Baptist for leaving uncle Herod Philip to marry his brother Herod Antipas. Got her revenge through daughter Salome.



Brother

### Herod Agrippa II

Never married. The last of the Herods, had Roman authority over Jerusalem. Appointed by Festus to hear Paul's defense.



Sister

### Berenice

Twice-married but incestuous consort of her brother Agrippa II, sponsor of Augustus for Emperor, and mistress of Titus

<sup>25</sup> Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, **Felix was afraid\*** and answered,

“Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.”

<sup>26</sup> Meanwhile he also **hoped that money would be given him\*\*** by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him.

<sup>27</sup> But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound.

\* “Now as he reasoned about... judgement to come, Felix **became** ἐμφοβος ἐμφοβος (thrown into fear, **terrified**, affrighted).”

\*\* Felix really was after a bribe. Per Tacitus, Felix exercised “the royal prerogative in a slavish sense, with all manner of cruelties and excesses.” Empress Antonia’s favourite slave (*concubinus*), he was freed and became Roman Governor of Judea. He married Drusilla of Mauretania, GGD of Antony and Cleopatra, a second princess, and Herod Agrippa II’s beautiful sister Drusilla (whom he had Simon Magus persuade to leave priest-king Azizus of Emesa).

## Acts 25

### Paul Appeals to Caesar

<sup>1</sup> Now when Festus had come to the province, after three days he went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> Then the high priest and the chief men of the Jews informed him against Paul; and they petitioned him, <sup>3</sup> asking a favor against him, that he would summon him to Jerusalem—while *they* lay in ambush along the road to kill him.

<sup>4</sup> But Festus answered that Paul should be kept at Caesarea, and that he himself was going *there* shortly.

<sup>5</sup> “Therefore,” he said, “let those who have authority among you go down with *me* and accuse this man, to see if there is any fault in him.”

<sup>6</sup> And when he had remained among them more than ten days, he went down to Caesarea.

And the next day, sitting on the judgment seat, he commanded Paul to be brought. <sup>7</sup> When he had come, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood about and laid many serious complaints against Paul, which they could not prove, <sup>8</sup> while he answered for himself,

“Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I offended in anything at all.”

<sup>9</sup> But Festus, wanting to do the Jews a favor, answered Paul and said,

“Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and there be judged before me concerning these things?”

<sup>10</sup> So Paul said,

“I stand at Caesar’s judgment seat, where I ought to be judged. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you very well know.

<sup>11</sup> “For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them.

“I appeal to Caesar.”

<sup>12</sup> Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered,

**“You have appealed  
to Caesar?  
To Caesar  
you shall go!”**



### Paul Before Agrippa

<sup>13</sup> And after some days King Agrippa and Bernice came to Caesarea to greet Festus. <sup>14</sup> When they had been there many days, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying:

“There is a certain man left a prisoner by Felix, <sup>15</sup> about whom the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed *me*, when I was in Jerusalem, asking for a judgment against him.”

<sup>16</sup> To them I answered,

‘It is not the custom of the Romans to deliver any man to destruction before the accused meets the accusers face to face, and has opportunity to answer for himself concerning the charge against him.’

<sup>17</sup> Therefore when they had come together, without any delay, the next day I sat on the judgment seat and commanded the man to be brought in.

<sup>18</sup> When the accusers stood up, they brought no accusation against him of such things as I supposed, <sup>19</sup> but had some questions against him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus, who had died, whom Paul affirmed to be alive. <sup>20</sup> And because I was uncertain of such questions, I asked whether he was willing to go to Jerusalem and there be judged concerning these matters. <sup>21</sup> But when Paul appealed to be reserved for the decision of Augustus, I commanded him to be kept till I could send him to Caesar.”

<sup>22</sup> Then Agrippa said to Festus, “I also would like to hear the man myself.”

“**Tomorrow,**” he said, “**you shall hear him.**”

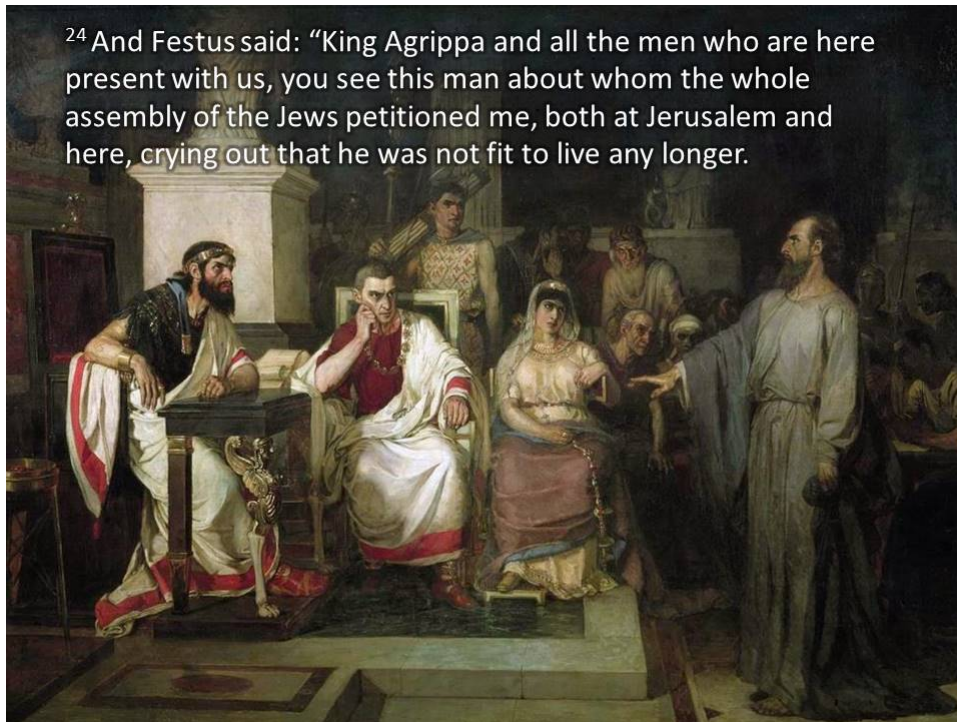
<sup>23</sup> So the next day, when Agrippa and Bernice had come with great pomp, and had entered the auditorium with the commanders and the prominent men of the city, at Festus' command Paul was brought in.



St Paul's Cathedral  
Anglican Church  
Melbourne, Australia

Paul (red), Festus (yellow), Agrippa (not-quite purple), Bernice (white)

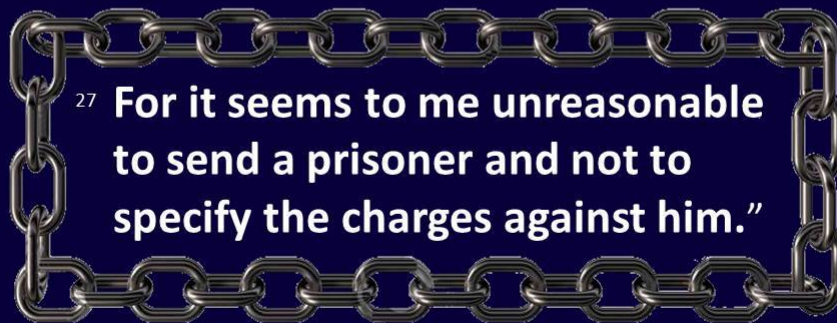
<sup>24</sup> And Festus said: "King Agrippa and all the men who are here present with us, you see this man about whom the whole assembly of the Jews petitioned me, both at Jerusalem and here, crying out that he was not fit to live any longer.





<sup>25</sup> But when **I found that he had committed nothing deserving of death**, and that he himself had appealed to Augustus, I decided to send him.

<sup>26</sup> I have nothing certain to write to my lord concerning him. Therefore I have brought him out before you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after the examination has taken place I may have something to write.



<sup>27</sup> **For it seems to me unreasonable to send a prisoner and not to specify the charges against him.”**

## Acts 26

<sup>1</sup> Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You are permitted to speak for yourself.”

So Paul stretched out his hand and answered for himself:

<sup>2</sup> “I think myself happy, King Agrippa, because today I shall answer for myself before you concerning all the things of which I am accused by the Jews, <sup>3</sup> especially because you are expert in all customs and questions which have to do with the Jews. Therefore I beg you to hear me patiently.

<sup>4</sup> “My manner of life from my youth, which was spent from the beginning among my own nation at Jerusalem, all the Jews know. <sup>5</sup> They knew me from the first, if they were willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

<sup>6</sup> “And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers. <sup>7</sup>To this *promise* our twelve tribes, earnestly serving *God* night and day, hope to attain.

“For this hope’s sake, King Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews.

<sup>8</sup> “Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?

<sup>9</sup> “Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. <sup>10</sup>This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against *them*.

<sup>11</sup> “And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled *them* to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted *them* even to foreign cities.



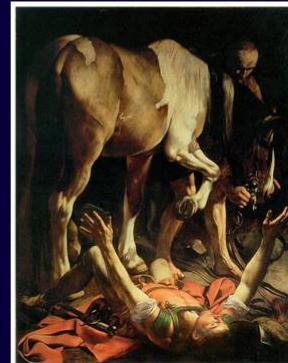
### Paul Recounts His Conversion

<sup>12</sup> “While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, <sup>13</sup>at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me.

<sup>14</sup> “And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? *It is hard for you to kick against the goads.*’

<sup>15</sup> “So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’

“And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>16</sup>But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.



<sup>17</sup> I will deliver you from the *Jewish* people, as well as *from* the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

<sup>19</sup> "Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, <sup>20</sup> but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.



<sup>21</sup> For these reasons the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill *me*.

<sup>22</sup> "Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come— <sup>23</sup> that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the *Jewish* people and to the Gentiles."

<sup>24</sup> Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice,

**"Paul, you are beside yourself!  
Much learning is driving you mad!"**

<sup>25</sup> But he said, "I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason. <sup>26</sup> For the king, before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner.

<sup>27</sup> "King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe."

<sup>28</sup> Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.”

<sup>29</sup> And Paul said, “I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains.”

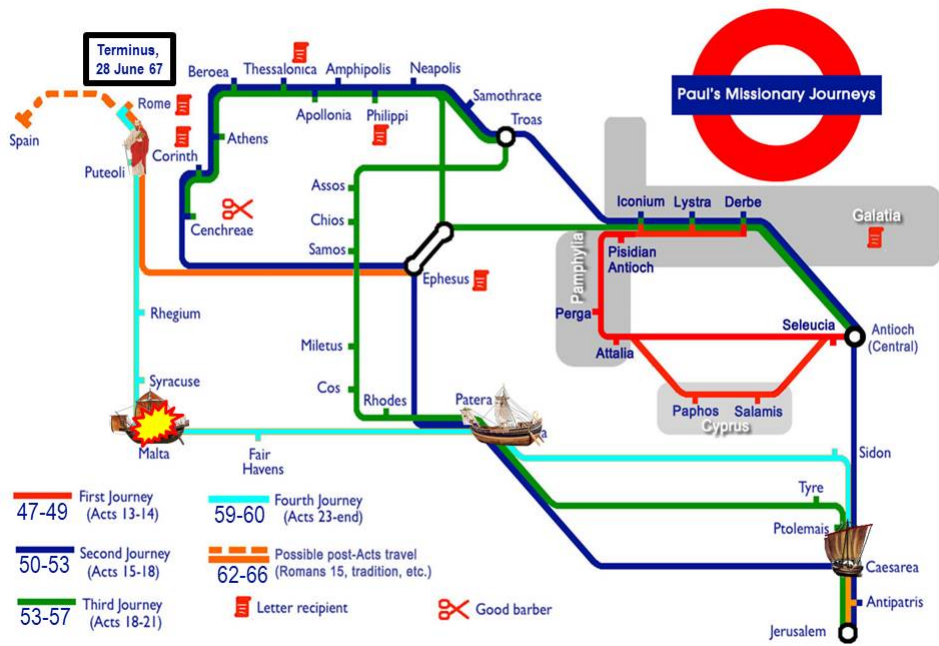


<sup>30</sup> When he had said these things, the king stood up, as well as the governor and Bernice and those who sat with them; <sup>31</sup> and when they had gone aside, they talked among themselves, saying,

“This man is doing nothing deserving of death or chains.”

<sup>32</sup> Then Agrippa said to Festus,

“This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”



## Acts 27

- 1 And when it was decided that we should sail to Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to *one* named Julius, a centurion of the Augustan Regiment.
- 2 So, entering a ship of Adramyttium, we put to sea, meaning to sail along the coasts of Asia. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, was with us. <sup>3</sup>And the next *day* we landed at Sidon. And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave *him* liberty to go to his friends and receive care.



COASTAL  
VESSEL



- 4 When we had put to sea from there, we sailed under *the shelter* of Cyprus, because the winds were contrary.
- 5 And when we had sailed over the sea which is off Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, *a city* of Lycia. <sup>6</sup>There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing to Italy, and he put us on board.



2,600 T BULK GRAIN CARRIER  
Myra was a major grain depot



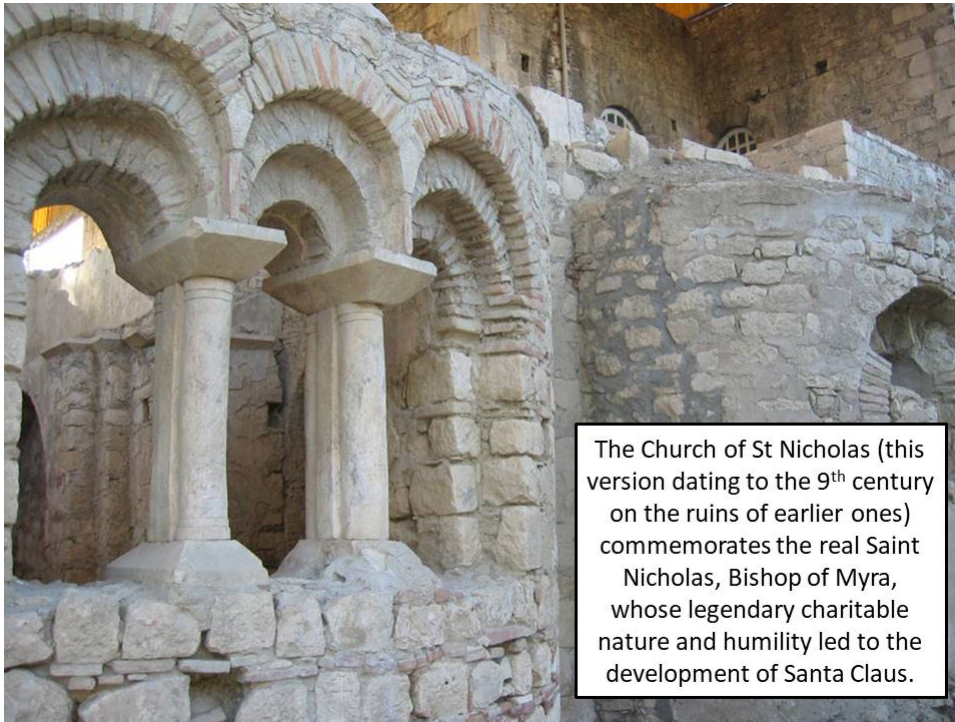
### Reconstruction of 131 AD Granary in Andriake.

At 72x32x8 metres, it could hold ~15,000 tonnes (6 shiploads) of grain in 8 or 9 sections.



### The largest amphitheatre in Lycia befit its main city.





<sup>7</sup> When we had sailed slowly many days, and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, the wind not permitting us to proceed, we sailed under *the shelter of Crete* off Salmone. <sup>8</sup> Passing it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near the city of Lasea.

<sup>9</sup> Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, <sup>10</sup> saying, "Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives."







<sup>11</sup> Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul. <sup>12</sup> And because the harbor was not suitable to winter in, the majority advised to set sail from there also, if by any means they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete opening toward the southwest and northwest, *and winter there.*

<sup>13</sup> When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained *their* desire, putting out to sea, they sailed close by Crete. <sup>14</sup> But not long after, a tempestuous head wind arose, called Euroclydon.





<sup>15</sup> So when the ship was caught, and could not head into the wind, we let *her* drive. <sup>16</sup> And running under *the shelter of* an island called Clauda, we secured the skiff with difficulty. <sup>17</sup> When they had taken it on board, they used cables to undergird the ship; and fearing lest they should run aground on the Syrtis *Sands*, they struck sail and so were driven.

<sup>18</sup> And because we were exceedingly tempest-tossed, the next *day* they lightened the ship. <sup>19</sup> On the third *day* we threw the ship's tackle overboard with our own hands.

<sup>20</sup> Now when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest beat on *us*, all hope that we would be saved was finally given up.

<sup>21</sup> But after long abstinence from food, then Paul stood in the midst of them and said,



“Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss.

<sup>22</sup> And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.

<sup>23</sup> For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, <sup>24</sup> saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.’

<sup>25</sup> Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. <sup>26</sup> However, we must run aground on a certain island.”



<sup>27</sup> Now when the fourteenth night had come, as we were driven up and down in the *Adriatic Sea*, about midnight the sailors sensed that they were drawing near some land.

<sup>28</sup> And they took soundings and found *it* to be twenty fathoms (37 m, 120 ft); and when they had gone a little farther, they took soundings again and found *it* to be fifteen fathoms (27 m, 90 ft).



<sup>29</sup> Then, fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern, and prayed for day to come.



<sup>30</sup> And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, when they had let down the skiff into the sea, under pretense of putting out anchors from the prow,



<sup>31</sup> Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved."

<sup>32</sup> Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the skiff and let it fall off.

<sup>33</sup> And as day was about to dawn, Paul implored *them* all to take food, saying,



“Today is the fourteenth day you have waited and continued without food, and eaten nothing. <sup>34</sup> Therefore I urge you to take nourishment, for this is for your survival, since not a hair will fall from the head of any of you.”



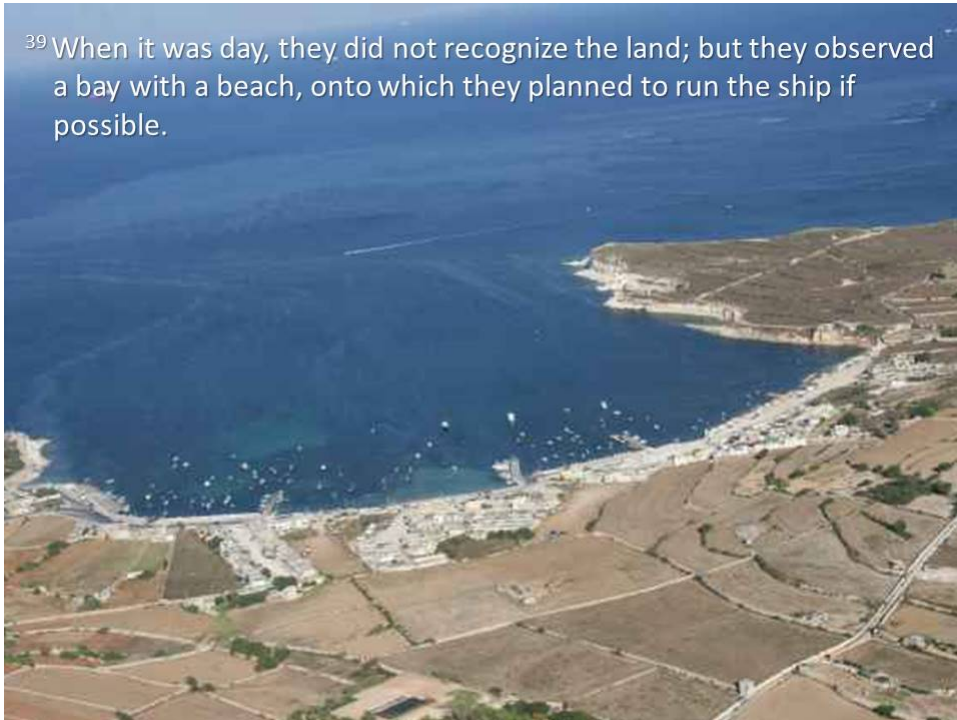
<sup>35</sup> And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken *it* he began to eat. <sup>36</sup> Then they were all encouraged, and also took food themselves.

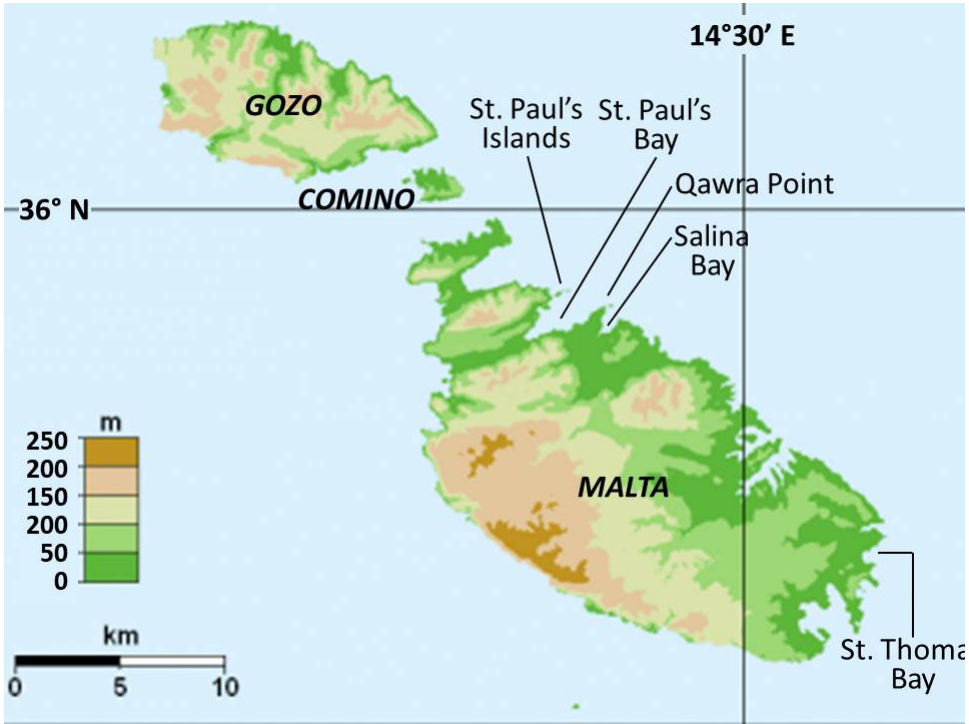
<sup>37</sup> And in all we were two hundred and seventy-six persons on the ship.

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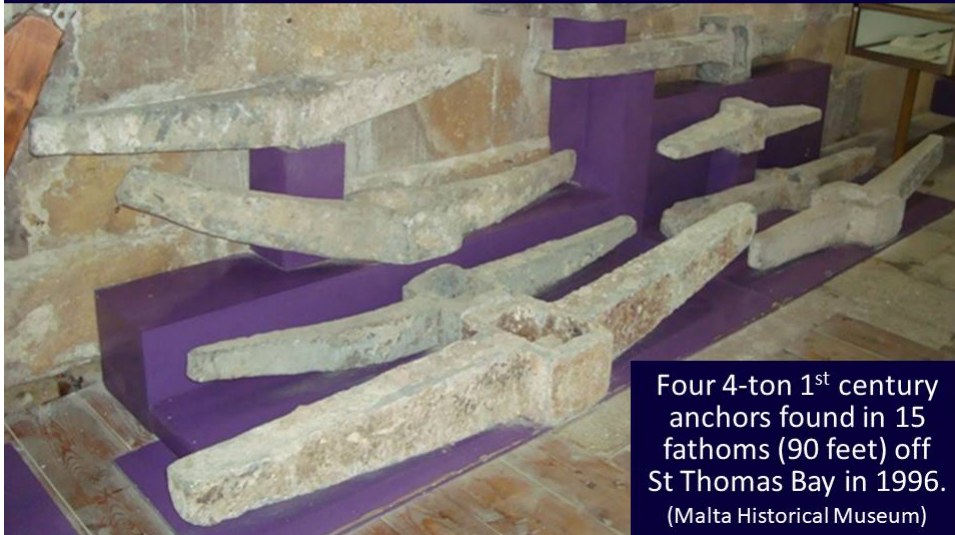
<sup>38</sup> So when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship and threw out the wheat into the sea.

<sup>39</sup> When it was day, they did not recognize the land; but they observed a bay with a beach, onto which they planned to run the ship if possible.





<sup>40</sup> And they let go the anchors and left *them* in the sea, meanwhile loosing the rudder ropes; and they hoisted the mainsail to the wind and made for shore.



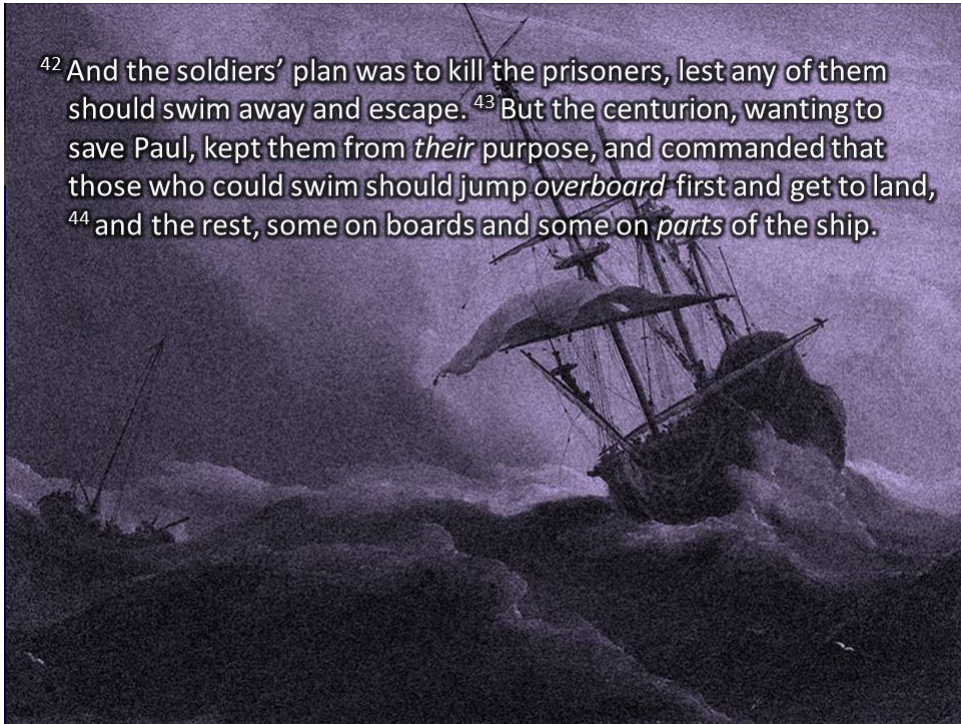
Four 4-ton 1<sup>st</sup> century anchors found in 15 fathoms (90 feet) off St Thomas Bay in 1996. (Malta Historical Museum)

<sup>41</sup> But striking a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the violence of the waves.

Muxnar Reef guarding the southern entry rises from 15 fathoms.



<sup>42</sup> And the soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim away and escape. <sup>43</sup> But the centurion, wanting to save Paul, kept them from *their* purpose, and commanded that those who could swim should jump *overboard* first and get to land, <sup>44</sup> and the rest, some on boards and some on *parts* of the ship.



And so it was that they all escaped safely to land.