

Acts 27-28 Summary

In Acts 27, Paul begins his dangerous journey to Rome as a prisoner. Despite warning the crew that the voyage will end in disaster, his counsel is ignored. A violent storm overtakes the ship, forcing the crew to throw cargo and supplies overboard as hope fades. Yet God preserves every life on board, just as Paul promised after receiving reassurance from the Lord. The ship is ultimately wrecked, but all passengers survive and make it safely to shore on the island of Malta.

In Acts 28, God's protection and power continue to be on display. After surviving the shipwreck, Paul is bitten by a viper, leading the islanders to assume divine judgment is finally catching up with him. When Paul suffers no harm, their conclusions reverse, and his credibility opens the door for ministry. Paul heals the sick and demonstrates the power of God among the people. Eventually, Paul arrives in Rome, where he meets with Jewish leaders and lives under house arrest, freely proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about Jesus Christ. The book of Acts ends with Paul faithfully fulfilling Jesus' promise that he would testify in Rome—showcasing God's providence, protection, and unstoppable mission, even through suffering and opposition.

Discussion Questions of Acts 27-28

1. Paul warned the crew about the coming danger, yet his counsel was ignored. In what areas of your life might God be giving clear guidance that you are tempted to overlook because it feels inconvenient, risky, or countercultural?
2. God protected every life on the ship, even though the journey involved great loss. How does this passage reshape your understanding of God's protection—not as the absence of hardship, but as His presence and purpose within it?
3. God fulfilled His promise that Paul would testify in Rome, despite every obstacle along the way. Where do you need to be reminded that God is faithful to complete what He has promised, even when the path forward looks uncertain or dangerous?

General Overview of Romans

The book of Romans, written by the apostle Paul around AD 57, addresses real tension within the church in Rome between Jewish and Gentile believers. After Jewish Christians were expelled from Rome under Emperor Claudius (AD 49) and later allowed to return (AD 54), they came back to find a church largely shaped and led by Gentile believers. This created friction over issues such as adherence to the Old Testament law, dietary restrictions, and sacred days. Paul writes to show that God's plan of redemption unites both Jews and Gentiles into one people, not through the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ. Romans systematically explains the gospel—highlighting

humanity's universal sin, God's righteousness, justification by faith, and the formation of a unified, grace-shaped community in Christ.

Summary of Romans 1-2

In Romans 1, Paul establishes that God alone is righteous and that His righteousness is revealed from heaven. He first addresses the unrighteousness of the Gentile world, explaining that although God has made Himself known through creation, humanity suppressed the truth and exchanged the worship of the Creator for created things. As a result, sin multiplied, moral disorder spread, and God “gave them over” to their chosen rebellion. Paul's point is not simply to condemn pagan culture, but to demonstrate the depth and seriousness of sin apart from God.

In Romans 2, Paul turns his attention to the Jews, confronting religious pride and self-righteous judgment. He argues that possessing the law or having a covenant identity does not exempt anyone from God's judgment. What matters is obedience of the heart, not external markers or moral superiority. Paul makes it clear that Jews and Gentiles alike stand on equal ground before God—both guilty, both accountable, and both in desperate need of grace. Together, these chapters set the stage for the central message of Romans: no one is righteous on their own, and salvation comes only through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. Romans 1 teaches that God has clearly revealed Himself through creation, yet humanity suppresses the truth. What are some ways people today suppress or exchange the truth about God, and how do we see this playing out culturally and personally?
2. Paul describes God “giving people over” to their chosen desires. How does this shape our understanding of God's judgment—not only as future punishment, but as allowing people to experience the consequences of rejecting Him?
3. In Romans 2, Paul confronts religious pride and moral superiority. Why is it so tempting to judge others' sin while excusing or minimizing our own, and how does this passage challenge that posture?
4. Paul insists that possessing the law or religious knowledge does not make someone righteous before God. How does this truth confront both legalism and cultural Christianity in the church today?
5. Both Jews and Gentiles are shown to be equally unrighteous and equally in need of grace. How should this reality shape the way we relate to one another in the church—especially across cultural, ethnic, or spiritual-background differences?