

**February 22, 2026**

**God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing**

***The Book of Acts Chapter 25,26***

***Passing the Torch: Paul's Farewell Tour Pt. 5***

***Faithful to the Finish: Paul's Lasting Legacy***

Today we come to the conclusion of the Book of Acts. It is the final stop on Paul's Farewell Tour, but it is not the end for him. Paul is still alive and well at the end of Acts, we just don't have much clear indication of his true farewell. We come to the dramatic conclusion of the book of Acts, where the Apostle Paul's journey takes him through storms, shipwreck, and ultimately to Rome. These chapters are not just an adventure story—they are a powerful testimony to God's faithfulness and to the enduring legacy of a life lived for Christ. Paul's journey reminds us that faithfulness is not measured by ease or comfort, but by our trust in God and our willingness to serve Him, trust in Him, and follow Him no matter the circumstances.

We find Paul in the beginning of Chapter 27 getting ready to board a ship to Rome ( approx. 60,61AD) just as God had promised he would go. Paul already had some connection with the Church in Rome as he had previously written a letter to them that we know of as Letter to the Romans. He had written this Letter about three years earlier (56,57AD) when he was spending time in Corinth growing the Church and believers there. The actual time slot is just before Acts 21 as he mentions in Romans that he is planning to go to Jerusalem and bring the collection of money for the needy.

However, I waited until the end of Acts in order to keep the flow of Paul's farewell tour in place.

So Paul is on his way to Rome and the Church has had about 3-4 years to process all the powerful teaching in his letter to them.

In the final chapters of Acts, specifically Acts 28:30-31, Paul stayed in Rome for **two years**. During this time, he lived under house arrest but was able to receive visitors and boldly proclaim the gospel "without hindrance."

**Scripture reference:** ([Acts 28:30-31, ESV](#))

*"He lived there two whole years at his own expense and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance."*

### **Key Dates and Duration**

- **AD 59–60:** Voyage and shipwreck.
- **AD 60–62:** Paul's two-year house arrest and ministry in Rome.

### **INTRODUCTION**

[Acts 27:1,2...](#) <sup>1</sup>*When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, they proceeded to deliver Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan cohort named Julius.* <sup>2</sup> *And embarking in an Adramyttian ship, which was about to sail to the regions along the coast of Asia, we put out to sea accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica.*

Last week we looked into the “KILL PAUL” scenario. Today we see another scenario “Gilligan’s Island” LOL. Yes, I am trying to be humorous so just go with it. When I read Acts 26 through 28—the story of Paul’s trial, his journey to Rome, and that infamous shipwreck—I can’t help but think of another famous shipwreck story: “Gilligan’s Island.” Some of you remember the theme song: *“Just sit right back and you’ll hear a tale, a tale of a fateful trip...”* It was supposed to be a three-hour tour, but it turned into a wild adventure with storms, castaways, and unexpected lessons. Paul’s journey wasn’t supposed to be a pleasure cruise, but it also wasn’t in the plan to go through storms and shipwreck on an island either. Paul’s trip from Caesarea, Israel to Rome, Italy is roughly 1,300–1,400 nautical miles, depending on the exact path and stops (often via Cyprus, Crete, Malta, Sicily). Ancient Roman merchant ships averaged 4–6 knots (about 4.5–7 mph) under ideal wind and weather conditions. With favorable winds, minimal stops, and no delays, a ship could cover 100–120 nautical miles per day. Ancient sources (like the Roman writer Vegetius) and modern scholarship suggest that, in the best-case scenario, a voyage from the eastern Mediterranean to Italy could be completed in about 2 weeks. Just like the three-hour trip turned into a nearly 15 year “imaginary maroon”.

For Paul, this 2-week trip turned into a nightmarish 4-6 month disaster. In Acts 26, he stands before King Agrippa, boldly sharing his testimony and the gospel. Instead of freedom, he’s sent off to Rome as a prisoner—accompanied by a motley crew of sailors, soldiers, and fellow travelers. Like the castaways on Gilligan’s Island, Paul and his companions soon find themselves in the middle of a storm, tossed by the waves, and ultimately shipwrecked on an unfamiliar shore.

But here’s where the stories’ part ways:

On Gilligan’s Island, the castaways spent their days trying to get rescued, often missing the point and getting into comical mishaps. But Paul, even in the midst of disaster, never lost sight of his mission. He used every opportunity—whether before kings or castaways—to share the hope of Jesus Christ. While Gilligan and friends were looking for a way off the island, Paul was looking for a way to bring the gospel to everyone he met, no matter the circumstances.

So today, as we look at Paul’s “three-hour tour/two-week tour” that turned into a two-year **Gospel Good News Adventure**, let’s ask ourselves: When life’s storms blow us off course, will we focus on escape—or on the mission God has for us right where we are?

### Summary Table Chapters 27,28

Event	Reference	Approx. Date	Duration
Embarks for Rome	Acts 27:1	AD 59	—
Shipwreck at Malta	Acts 27:27–44	Late AD 59	—
Winter on Malta	Acts 28:1–10	AD 59–60	3 months
Arrival in Rome	Acts 28:16	Spring AD 60	—
House arrest & ministry in Rome	Acts 28:16–31	AD 60–62	2 years

Acts 27 and 28 present a vivid narrative of Paul’s perilous journey from Caesarea to Rome, marked by storms, shipwreck, and unexpected hospitality. Through Luke’s eyewitness account, we see that Paul’s voyage was not just a physical journey, but a powerful demonstration of the providence and faithfulness of God in the midst of disaster and uncertainty. Despite being a prisoner, Paul emerges as a spiritual leader—encouraging, guiding, and interceding for all aboard the ship. His assurance that everything is going to be ok is rooted not in circumstances, but

in his unwavering trust in God’s promises. Even when the ship is lost, every life is spared, underscoring the truth that God’s purposes prevail even through chaos and loss. Theologically, these chapters highlight that God is present and active in our storms. Paul’s experience teaches us that faithfulness to God’s calling does not exempt us from hardship, but it does guarantee God’s presence and ultimate purpose. The narrative also emphasizes the unstoppable nature of the gospel: even under house arrest in Rome, Paul continues to proclaim Christ “*with all boldness and without hindrance*” (Acts 28:31). His ministry to both Jews and Gentiles in Rome, despite opposition and limitation, illustrates that God’s message cannot be chained. The journey, with all its trials, becomes a testimony to God’s sovereignty, the resilience of faith, and the enduring hope found in Christ. Acts 27 and 28 encourage us to trust God’s promises amid life’s storms, to lead with courage and compassion even in adversity, and to remember that no circumstance can thwart God’s mission or silence His witnesses. Our “disasters” may well be the stage for God’s destiny to unfold in and through us ([1](#), [3](#), [5](#)).

## I. Trusting God in Life's Storms

(Acts 27:13–26)

Paul's journey to Rome begins with a warning. As a prisoner under Roman guard, Paul boards a ship headed for Italy. Soon, they encounter fierce winds and dangerous conditions. Paul, guided by the Holy Spirit, warns the crew that disaster awaits if they continue, but his advice is ignored. The ship is caught in a violent storm, and all hope seems lost. Yet in the midst of chaos, Paul stands up and declares, "*Take heart, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told*" (Acts 27:25). Paul's confidence was not in the ship, the crew, or the circumstances—but in the promises power of God.

### Application:

Paul shows us confidence in God's promises, even when circumstances seem hopeless. We all face storms—unexpected crises, disappointments, and seasons of uncertainty. Like Paul, we are called to anchor our hope in God's promises. Faith is not the absence of storms, but the assurance that God is with us in the midst of them. When life feels out of control, we can trust that God's Word will stand.

## II. Courage and Leadership in Crisis

(Acts 27:27–44)

As the storm rages on, Paul emerges as a leader—not by position, but by faith and character. He encourages everyone on board to eat, assuring them that God will spare their lives. His calm presence and practical wisdom inspire others to act wisely and not give in to fear. When the ship finally runs aground and breaks apart, every person makes it safely to shore, just as God promised.

### Application:

Paul shows true leadership as he steps up offering hope, practical advice, and spiritual encouragement. His calm and courage inspire others to act wisely. In times of crisis, God calls us to be people of hope and encouragement. Our faith can steady others when fear threatens to overwhelm. Whether in our families, workplaces, or communities, we can be a voice of calm and a source of strength, pointing others to the faithfulness of God.

### III. Serving Others Despite Hardship

(Acts 28:1–10)

Shipwrecked and stranded on the island of Malta, Paul does not retreat into self-pity. Instead, he continues to serve. When bitten by a viper, he suffers no harm, and the islanders are amazed. Paul then heals the father of Publius, the chief official, and many others who are sick. Paul's hardships become opportunities for ministry. He turns adversity into a platform for compassion and witness.

#### Application:

Paul turns adversity into opportunity for ministry. Don't let personal hardship stop you from helping others. God can use our difficulties as platforms for compassion and ministry. Sometimes, our greatest impact comes not in seasons of ease, but in moments when we choose to serve others despite our own struggles.

### IV. The Unstoppable Gospel

(Acts 28:16–31)

Finally, Paul arrives in Rome. Though under house arrest, he is not silenced. He welcomes all who come to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching about Jesus “*with all boldness and without hindrance*” (Acts 28:31). The gospel continues to spread, even in the heart of the empire, despite opposition and limitation.

#### Application:

Paul teaches us that we should not let any opposition and limitation stop God's mission. No circumstance can silence God's message or limit your influence for Christ. Be faithful in your “Rome”—wherever God has placed you. Whether in freedom or restriction, in comfort or adversity, God's mission continues through you.

## **V. Conclusion: Paul's Lasting Legacy**

Paul's faithfulness, courage, and commitment leave a legacy that inspires us to finish well. His journey reminds us that God's purposes prevail, even thru storms and setbacks.

The question for us is: Will we be "faithful to the finish" in our own lives? Will we trust God, serve others, and share the gospel no matter what?

**Paul's faithfulness, courage, and commitment** leave a legacy that inspires us to finish well

### **Key Takeaways for Everyday Life:**

- Trust God's promises in uncertainty.
- Lead with courage and hope in crisis.
- Serve others, even when you're struggling.
- Remember: God's mission continues through you, no matter your circumstances.

[Following is the entire Acts 27 & 28 Passage](#)

## Paul Is Sent to Rome

**ACTS 27...** <sup>1</sup>When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, they proceeded to deliver Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan cohort named Julius. <sup>2</sup>And embarking in an Adramyttian ship, which was about to sail to the regions along the coast of Asia, we put out to sea accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica. <sup>3</sup>The next day we put in at Sidon; and Julius treated Paul with consideration and allowed him to go to his friends and receive care. <sup>4</sup>From there we put out to sea and sailed under the shelter of Cyprus because the winds were contrary. <sup>5</sup>When we had sailed through the sea along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra in Lycia. <sup>6</sup>There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy, and he put us aboard it. <sup>7</sup>When we had sailed slowly for a good many days, and with difficulty had arrived off Cnidus, since the wind did not permit us *to go* farther, we sailed under the shelter of Crete, off Salmone; <sup>8</sup>and with difficulty sailing past it we came to a place called Fair Havens, near which was the city of Lasea.

<sup>9</sup>When considerable time had passed and the voyage was now dangerous, since even the fast was already over, Paul *began* to admonish them, <sup>10</sup>and said to them, “Men, I perceive that the voyage will certainly be with damage and great loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives.” <sup>11</sup>But the centurion was more persuaded by the pilot and the captain of the ship than by what was being said by Paul. <sup>12</sup>Because the harbor was not suitable for wintering, the majority reached a

decision to put out to sea from there, if somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, facing southwest and northwest, and spend the winter *there*.

<sup>13</sup>When a moderate south wind came up, supposing that they had attained their purpose, they weighed anchor and *began* sailing along Crete, close *inshore*.

### Shipwreck

<sup>14</sup>But before very long there rushed down from the land a violent wind, called Euraquilo; <sup>15</sup>and when the ship was caught *in it* and could not face the wind, we gave way *to it* and let ourselves be driven along. <sup>16</sup>Running under the shelter of a small island called Clauda, we were scarcely able to get the *ship's* boat under control. <sup>17</sup>After they had hoisted it up, they used supporting cables in undergirding the ship; and fearing that they might run aground on *the shallows* of Syrtis, they let down the sea anchor and in this way let themselves be driven along. <sup>18</sup>The next day as we were being violently storm-tossed, they began to jettison the cargo; <sup>19</sup>and on the third day they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. <sup>20</sup>Since neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small storm was assailing *us*, from then on all hope of our being saved was gradually abandoned.

<sup>21</sup>When they had gone a long time without food, then Paul stood up in their midst and said, “Men, you ought to have followed my advice and not to have set sail from Crete and incurred this damage and loss. <sup>22</sup>*Yet* now I urge you to keep up your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but *only* of the ship. <sup>23</sup>For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong

and whom I serve stood before me, <sup>24</sup> saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.’ <sup>25</sup> Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told. <sup>26</sup> But we must run aground on a certain island.”

<sup>27</sup> But when the fourteenth night came, as we were being driven about in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors *began* to surmise that they were approaching some land. <sup>28</sup> They took soundings and found *it to be* twenty fathoms; and a little farther on they took another sounding and found *it to be* fifteen fathoms. <sup>29</sup> Fearing that we might run aground somewhere on the rocks, they cast four anchors from the stern and wished for daybreak. <sup>30</sup> But as the sailors were trying to escape from the ship and had let down the *ship’s* boat into the sea, on the pretense of intending to lay out anchors from the bow, <sup>31</sup> Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, “Unless these men remain in the ship, you yourselves cannot be saved.” <sup>32</sup> Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the *ship’s* boat and let it fall away.

<sup>33</sup> Until the day was about to dawn, Paul was encouraging them all to take some food, saying, “Today is the fourteenth day that you have been constantly watching and going without eating, having taken nothing. <sup>34</sup> Therefore I encourage you to take some food, for this is for your preservation, for not a hair from the head of any of you will perish.” <sup>35</sup> Having said this, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of all, and he broke it and began to eat. <sup>36</sup> All of them were

encouraged and they themselves also took food. <sup>37</sup> All of us in the ship were two hundred and seventy-six persons. <sup>38</sup> When they had eaten enough, they *began* to lighten the ship by throwing out the wheat into the sea.

<sup>39</sup> When day came, they could not recognize the land; but they did observe a bay with a beach, and they resolved to drive the ship onto it if they could. <sup>40</sup> And casting off the anchors, they left them in the sea while at the same time they were loosening the ropes of the rudders; and hoisting the foresail to the wind, they were heading for the beach. <sup>41</sup> But striking a reef where two seas met, they ran the vessel aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern *began* to be broken up by the force *of the waves*. <sup>42</sup> The soldiers’ plan was to kill the prisoners, so that none *of them* would swim away and escape; <sup>43</sup> but the centurion, wanting to bring Paul safely through, kept them from their intention, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land, <sup>44</sup> and the rest *should follow*, some on planks, and others on various things from the ship. And so it happened that they all were brought safely to land.

### **Safe at Malta**

**ACTS 28** <sup>1</sup>When they had been brought safely through, then we found out that the island was called Malta. <sup>2</sup>The natives showed us extraordinary kindness; for because of the rain that had set in and because of the cold, they kindled a fire and received us all. <sup>3</sup>But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the

heat and fastened itself on his hand. <sup>4</sup> When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they *began* saying to one another, “Undoubtedly this man is a murderer, and though he has been saved from the sea, justice has not allowed him to live.” <sup>5</sup> However he shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm. <sup>6</sup> But they were expecting that he was about to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had waited a long time and had seen nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and *began* to say that he was a god. <sup>7</sup> Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the leading man of the island, named Publius, who welcomed us and entertained us courteously three days. <sup>8</sup> And it happened that the father of Publius was lying *in bed* afflicted with *recurrent* fever and dysentery; and Paul went in *to see* him and after he had prayed, he laid his hands on him and healed him. <sup>9</sup> After this had happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases were coming to him and getting cured. <sup>10</sup> They also honored us with many marks of respect; and when we were setting sail, they supplied *us* with all we needed.

### **Paul Arrives at Rome**

<sup>11</sup> At the end of three months we set sail on an Alexandrian ship which had wintered at the island, and which had the Twin Brothers for its figurehead. <sup>12</sup> After we put in at Syracuse, we stayed there for three days. <sup>13</sup> From there we sailed around and arrived at Rhegium, and a day later a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli. <sup>14</sup> There we

found *some* brethren, and were invited to stay with them for seven days; and thus we came to Rome. <sup>15</sup> And the brethren, when they heard about us, came from there as far as the Market of Appius and Three Inns to meet us; and when Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.

<sup>16</sup> When we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him.

<sup>17</sup> After three days Paul called together those who were the leading men of the Jews, and when they came together, he *began* saying to them, “Brethren, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. <sup>18</sup> And when they had examined me, they were willing to release me because there was no ground for putting me to death. <sup>19</sup> But when the Jews objected, I was forced to appeal to Caesar, not that I had any accusation against my nation. <sup>20</sup> For this reason, therefore, I requested to see you and to speak with you, for I am wearing this chain for the sake of the hope of Israel.” <sup>21</sup> They said to him, “We have neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor have any of the brethren come here and reported or spoken anything bad about you. <sup>22</sup> But we desire to hear from you what your views are; for concerning this sect, it is known to us that it is spoken against everywhere.”

<sup>23</sup> When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both

the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening. <sup>24</sup> Some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others would not believe. <sup>25</sup> And when they did not agree with one another, they *began* leaving after Paul had spoken one *parting* word, “The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah (6:10) the prophet to your fathers, <sup>26</sup> saying,

*‘Go to this people and say, “You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; And you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; <sup>27</sup> For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes; Otherwise they might see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I would heal them.”’*

<sup>28</sup> *Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will also listen.”*

<sup>29</sup> [When he had spoken these words, the Jews departed, having a great dispute among themselves.]

<sup>30</sup> And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him, <sup>31</sup> preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

**Sunday, February 22, 2026**  
**God's Good News Story**  
**Passing the Torch: Paul's Farewell Tour Pt. 5**  
**Faithful to the Finish: Paul's Lasting Legacy**

The Good News Story

THE CHURCH  
ALIVE  
& GROWING

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
Broussard  
LOVING GOD, LOVING ONE ANOTHER