

## Acts of the Holy Spirit

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8 ESV)*

### Chapter 25

V.1–12 **Paul Appeals to Caesar.** Festus wanted to appease the Jews whom he governed by attempting to have Paul tried in Jerusalem. To avoid the fate that awaited him there, Paul invoked his citizen’s right for a trial in Rome.

V.13–22 **Festus Asks King Agrippa II to Hear Paul’s Case.** A visit to Caesarea by the Jewish King Agrippa II gave Festus an opportunity to try to formulate charges against Paul.

**Which Agrippa is this?** – He is the great grandson of Herod the Great, who murdered Bethlehem’s children; Herod Antipas (his uncle) was involved in John the Baptist’s execution and Jesus’ trial; Herod Agrippa I (his father) had the Apostle James killed; and this Herod Agrippa II was one of Paul’s judges.

### Chapter 26

V.1-23 – **Paul States His Case to Agrippa II.** Paul delivers his testimony of who he was is, what God has done in his life, and a detailed account of the life-saving Gospel message.

V.30-32 – **Agrippa Finds No Basis For Charges.** After hearing Paul King Agrippa declares that Paul’s committed no crime, and if Paul hadn’t petitioned to be heard in a Roman court he could have been set free.

### Chapter 27

V.1–44 **The Long And Difficult Journey to Rome by Sea.** The central theme of this account is the fulfillment of God’s will in preserving Paul for his Roman testimony. Here, the Gospel heads toward the “ends of the earth”. Their ship broke apart off the Island of Malta, just South of Sicily.

### Chapter 28

V.1-10 – **Paul on Malta** - Those shipwrecked spent the remainder of the winter on the island. Paul’s time there is highlighted by his protection from a viper’s bite and his healing of the leading citizen’s father. They remained on the island until after the winter (3 months), and then sailed for Rome.

**Paul Witnesses to the Jews in Rome.** Unable to visit the synagogues himself, Paul invited the Roman Jews to come to him (vv.17;23).

V.20 – “*The Hope of Israel*”

V. 28 **Paul’s declares once again that the Gentiles have this same “Hope”.**

Information as to what happened beyond that time comes from extrabiblical sources and from hints in the last few of Paul’s letters. *First Clement* 5.7 (written A.D. 95, perhaps the earliest known orthodox Christian writing after the NT) speaks of Paul preaching in “the limits of the west,” which probably indicates his fulfilling his desire to preach in Spain (see Rom. 15:24). That would point to his release from the first Roman imprisonment. The church historian Eusebius, writing in A.D. 325, cites the tradition that Paul was freed from confinement and carried on a further ministry until he was arrested and placed in a second Roman imprisonment, at which time he was martyred (*Ecclesiastical History* 2.22).

Paul’s time in prison was not wasted, for it was during his Roman imprisonment that he wrote the letters to the Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. The time after Paul’s release from his first imprisonment (mid-60s) would be when he wrote 1 Timothy and Titus. He probably wrote his last letter, 2 Timothy, during his second imprisonment, as he awaited execution (cf. 2 Tim. 4:6–8).