

## Fact Sheet for "Our Hope" Acts 28:11-31, I

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This is the next to the last sermon in Acts. The book ends with Paul quoting from Isaiah. Next week we will look at that quote more closely. Paul, in house arrest at Rome, would continue preaching Christ. Peter reminds us to have in mind to always do the same (1 Peter 3:15).

**ESV <sup>11</sup> ¶ After three months we set sail in a ship that had wintered in the island, a ship of Alexandria, with the twin gods as a figurehead.**

The twin gods Castor and Pollux, according to Greek mythology, were the twin sons of Zeus. If their constellation, Gemini, was seen during a storm it was thought to be an omen of good luck. [Josiah (2 Kings 23:5); Isaiah 13:9-10; Job, in speaking about God (Job 9:9); God (Job 38:31-32); Amos 5:8]

In Greek mythology Orion was a hunter, and the Pleiades were the seven daughters of Atlas. The bear figures in Greek mythology also. But be careful! These passages describe pictures that people have creatively imagined in the stars without any truth being given to Greek mythology. In fact, different pictures were seen by different peoples, and the constellations were known by different names throughout history. These particular names for constellations appear in our English translations because they are the commonly understood constellations today.

**<sup>12</sup> Putting in at Syracuse, we stayed there for three days. <sup>13</sup> And from there we made a circuit and arrived at Rhegium. And after one day a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli. <sup>14</sup> There we found brothers and were invited to stay with them for seven days. And so we came to Rome.**

Syracuse was on Sicily. Rhegium was on the toe of Italy. Puteoli was 152 miles south of Rome.

**<sup>15</sup> And the brothers there, when they heard about us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage.**

The Forum of Appius was a market town 43 miles from Rome. The Three Taverns were 33 miles from Rome.

**<sup>16</sup> And when we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who guarded him.**

**<sup>17</sup> ¶ After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews, and when they had gathered, he said to them, "Brothers, 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> When they had examined me, they wished to set me at liberty, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. <sup>19</sup> But because the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar-- though I had no charge to bring against my nation. <sup>20</sup> For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain."**

"the hope of Israel" – Paul meant by this the fulfillment of the OT promises to Israel (see Acts 23:6; 24:14-15; 26:6-7)

**<sup>21</sup> And they said to him, "We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken any evil about you. <sup>22</sup> But we desire to hear from you what your views are, for with regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against."**

Had Christians been converting people by the sword? Had Christians been driving those who didn't believe out of their homes? Had Christians been terrorizing those who didn't convert? Did Christians have a different and odd lifestyle? Were Christians dangerous to be around? NO! It was only because of their faith in Christ that Christianity was spoken against.

<sup>23</sup> ¶ When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. <sup>24</sup> And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved. <sup>25</sup> And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: "The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet:

<sup>26</sup> "Go to this people, and say,  
"You will indeed hear but never understand,  
and you will indeed see but never  
perceive."

<sup>27</sup> For this people's heart has grown dull,  
and with their ears they can barely hear,  
and their eyes they have closed;  
lest they should see with their eyes  
and hear with their ears  
and understand with their heart  
and turn, and I would heal them.'

This is a quote from Isaiah 6:9-10.

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

As you think back through Acts this seems to be the theme of the book!

<sup>NAU</sup> **Acts 28:29** *When he had spoken these words, the Jews departed, having a great dispute among themselves.*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>30</sup> He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, <sup>31</sup> proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

See Ephesians 6:19

<sup>NAU</sup> **1 Peter 3:15** but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, **always** being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

Some will believe... many will not. The Bible is true... and the gospel is true... and the coming judgment is true. Do you really believe the Bible? Do you believe in Christ? Do you believe in the coming judgment? This is not just a religious belief among all the others in the world. This is true!

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<sup>1</sup> From the Ryrie Study Bible: "Many mss. (*manuscripts*) do not contain this verse."