

Acts 28

King James Version (KJV)

28 And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita. (Melita = honey; It is called Malta, today)

²And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold. (no little kindness = great kindness – better translation)

(Romans called non-Romans Barbarians. Malta was not part of the Roman Empire but they had a thriving culture)

³And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. (A venomous snake – also symbolic for Satan)

⁴And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live. (They assumed that justice or fate <Karma> caught up with an evil man. Paul was a good man who served God)

⁵And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm. (Paul was unhurt by the snake. That was divine intervention)

NOTE: (On a spiritual level, when we are under God's protection, there is nothing that Satan can do to harm us. God is still using Satan to test our faith during this Second Age. The serpent <Satan> has already been judged to death for his rebellion against God in the First Age. He will go into the lake of fire after the Millennium, when he has tempted people for the last time. God will destroy him there)

⁶Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god. (God healed Paul. HE told him he would go to Rome, and he will)

(These heathen people went from thinking that Paul was an evil man to thinking that Paul was a god. Both are wrong. Paul was a good man, under the protection of God)

⁷In the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius; who received us, and lodged us three days courteously. (Publius- means popular; he was governor of the island)

⁸And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him. (Paul didn't heal him. Paul prayed to God. God healed the man)

⁹So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed: (God was working miracles through Paul to spread Christianity to Malta. After witnessing these miracles, they listened to Paul's Gospel teachings)

(God turned a shipwreck into a conversion of these people to Christianity. Not only was the entire crew of the ship rescued; but also, the people of Malta were given a chance to receive God's salvation)

¹⁰Who also honoured us with many honours; and when we departed, they laded us with such things as were necessary. (The people of Malta were grateful for God's good works through Paul. They gave the group supplies to make the journey to Rome)

¹¹And after three months we departed in a ship of Alexandria, which had wintered in the isle, whose sign was Castor and Pollux. (Gemini - the twins)

¹²And landing at Syracuse, we tarried there three days. (Syracuse is in Italy)

¹³And from thence we fetched a compass, and came to Rhegium: and after one day the south wind blew, and we came the next day to Puteoli:

¹⁴Where we found brethren, and were desired to tarry with them seven days: and so we went toward Rome. (Christianity was spreading through Paul's travel to Rome)

¹⁵And from thence, when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appii forum, and The three taverns: whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage. (Paul is finding Christians all along his trip to Rome)

(God took Paul out of the Kenites' clutches in Israel and delivered him to Italy where he was converting people)

¹⁶ And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard: but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him. (This soldier had seen the miracles that God had done through Paul, on the way to Rome. The Romans trusted Paul and kept him out of the prison. He was kept under house arrest)

¹⁷ And it came to pass, that after three days Paul called the chief of the Jews together: and when they were come together, he said unto them, Men and brethren, though I have committed nothing against the people, or customs of our fathers, yet was I delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. (Paul is trying to determine how these Jews will treat him. Will they also try to kill him, like the Jews in Jerusalem did?)

¹⁸ Who, when they had examined me, would have let me go, because there was no cause of death in me. (The Romans knew that Paul was not guilty. They knew that Paul was being set up by the corrupt Jews of the synagogue in Jerusalem)

¹⁹ But when the Jews spake against it, I was constrained to appeal unto Caesar; not that I had ought to accuse my nation of. (The Jews wanted Paul dead. He had to appeal to Caesar in order to stop Porcius Festus from handing him over to the murderous Jews in Jerusalem)

²⁰ For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see you, and to speak with you: because that for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain. (Paul was a prisoner because he taught Christianity, not because he had committed a crime. The Jews framed him because he threatened their money making racket in the temple)

²¹ And they said unto him, We neither received letters out of Judaea concerning thee, neither any of the brethren that came shewed or spake any harm of thee. (There were no Kenites here in Rome to falsely accuse Paul)

²² But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against. (These Jews wanted to know more about Christianity. They wanted to learn God's Word. They had not been corrupted by the Kenites in Jerusalem, Greece and in Asia Minor)

NOTE: (It seemed then and now, that everybody was and is against Christianity. Today, the Muslims, socialists and atheists are the biggest group of heathen that try to work against Christianity. But, the Hindus and Taoists also persecute Christians in Asia, to a lesser degree)

²³ And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening. (Paul was given a house in Rome. He taught the Gospel of God to Jews and Gentiles alike. He converted many people while under arrest in Rome)

²⁴ And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not. (Christianity is voluntary. The truth of God's word is absolute. It's up to the individual to either believe or not)

(Unlike Islam where the message is – join us or die. Try to leave Islam and THE "Good Muslim" will kill you. Jesus said – You will know them by their deeds)

²⁵ And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers,

²⁶ Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: Isaiah-6:9 (Prophesied approx 600BC)

²⁷ For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. (The traditions of men have taught them all the wrong things. They think that they already know the Word of God, but they never actually learned it chapter by chapter, verse by verse. Instead, they listened to sermons, written by their preacher)

(They can't see the truth when it is presented to them because their minds have been impregnated by false doctrines of men and of "denominations")

NOTE: (God protects the weak minded from the truth in order to keep them innocent from the unpardonable sin. The Elect will stand against antichrist in the end days to speak the truth. Many of these deceived

people will wake up spiritually at that time. They will finally realize that antichrist has deceived them) Romans-11

Mark-4:13 (To know the truth of God's Word, and to still side with antichrist is the unpardonable sin. It would be a complete betrayal of God. That is the same sin that Satan committed at the end of the First Age. He rebelled against God, and was sentenced to death for it. He was the first to commit that unpardonable sin)

²⁸ Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it. (They will hear it because their minds are not already filled with false doctrine and traditions of men)

²⁹ And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, and had great reasoning among themselves.

³⁰ And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, (God blessed him greatly for his service. Paul taught God's Word to all people who came to learn it)

³¹ Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him. (Paul used the time that he had wisely. He converted a great number of people to Christianity)

NOTE: (Finally, Nero got around to killing Paul. He also killed Peter, a few years later. Nero greatly persecuted the Christians. He was the first of many Caesars to do that)