

**Witnesses to Christ**  
*Studies in the Acts of the Apostles*

**Paul Bears Witness at Rome**  
**Lesson 22**  
**Acts 28**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School*  
*May 29, 2016*

# Acts – Purpose

- ▶ Transition to a new era in the plan of God
  - O.T. – waiting for Christ to come for His redemptive work
  - N.T. – waiting for Christ to come to rule
- ▶ The life and work of Jesus Christ – the crux of history
  - Holy Spirit replaces the Law
  - Church replaces Israel
  - A world-wide ministry
  - A time of tribulation
- ▶ The same salvation: justification by faith

# A Surprise Ending

- ▶ Acts 21-26 – Paul’s trials and defense (2+ years)
- ▶ Acts 27 – Hurricane at sea (2+ weeks)
- ▶ Acts 28:1-16 – Waiting at Malta (3 months)
- ▶ Acts 28:17-31 – In Rome to see Caesar
- ▶ No appearance before Caesar (23:11; 27:24)
- ▶ A significant ending – the Word of God
  - The life of a minister – providence of God
  - The message of a minister – the Gospel

# Malta (28:1-10)

- ▶ Malta – near Rome
- ▶ Barbarian kindness
- ▶ Barbarian “theology” – Divine retribution
- ▶ Paul’s healing ministry
- ▶ No witnessing?
- ▶ God’s providential care

# On to Rome (28:11-16)

- ▶ Twin Brothers (Pollux and Castor)
- ▶ A south wind
- ▶ The brethren at Puteoli x 1 week
- ▶ Encourged by Roman brethren
- ▶ Paul under house arrest

# Paul's Witness at Rome (28:17-31)

- ▶ Paul's final defense
- ▶ “. . . wearing this chain for the sake of the hope of Israel.”
  - The Son of David on David's throne eternally (Luke 1:30-33)
  - Remember mercy for Israel (Luke 1:54-55)
  - Remember His holy covenant (Luke 1:68-79)
  - A Savior, Christ the Lord . . . (Luke 2:10-14)
  - Salvation for Israel and the Gentiles (Luke 2:29-32)
  - O.T. message re: salvation Luke 24:25-27; 44-49
- ▶ No accusations from Jerusalem
- ▶ Request to hear Paul

# Paul's Witness at Rome

- ▶ The Kingdom of God and Jesus – from Scripture
- ▶ The beginning and ending of Acts (1:3; 28:23, 31)
- ▶ Peter at Pentecost (2:25-36) – Christ, the King
- ▶ Philip in Samaria (8:12) – the Kingdom and Jesus Christ
- ▶ Paul and tribulations (14:22) – pathway to the Kingdom
- ▶ Paul at Ephesus (19:8) – persuading about the Kingdom
- ▶ Paul with the elders (20:25) – preaching the Kingdom

# The Kingdom of God

- ▶ A Millennial Kingdom on the earth (Zech 14:9; Rev 20)
- ▶ An Eternal Kingdom on the new heaven and earth (Zech 9:9-10; Rev. 2:27; 12:5; 19:15; Matt 6:10; 25:34)
- ▶ Metaphor for salvation (Luke 17:20-21)
- ▶ All three are true!



# Why the Kingdom?

- ▶ It is the hope of the Everlasting Covenant
- ▶ It is entered by salvation (John 3:3, 5; Luke 18:18-26)
- ▶ It is entered by resurrection (Revelation 20:4-6)
- ▶ It is the final state of our salvation (Revelation 21-22)
- ▶ Salvation is for all of creation (Rom 8:19-25)
- ▶ The unrealized hope of Israel – Great Nation ruled by the Son of David on the Throne of David

# Concerning Jesus

- ▶ The life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus
- ▶ From the Law of Moses and the Prophets
- ▶ A Kingdom of righteousness without competing authority (1 Cor 15:24; 2 Peter 3:13)

# Rejection by and of Israel

- ▶ A present reality
- ▶ A reality from Sinai (7:42-43 and Amos 5:25)
- ▶ A judgment foretold by Isaiah (28:26-27; Isa 6:9-10)
- ▶ An enduring hope “all Israel will be saved” (Rom 11:25-29)

# Paul Turns to the Gentiles

- ▶ Same message (28:31)
- ▶ Preaching to all . . .

# Witnesses to Christ

- ▶ The New Covenant ministry
- ▶ The fullness of the Holy Spirit
- ▶ The message: Christ and His Kingdom
- ▶ Preach to all . . . to the ends of the earth