

From Malta to Rome



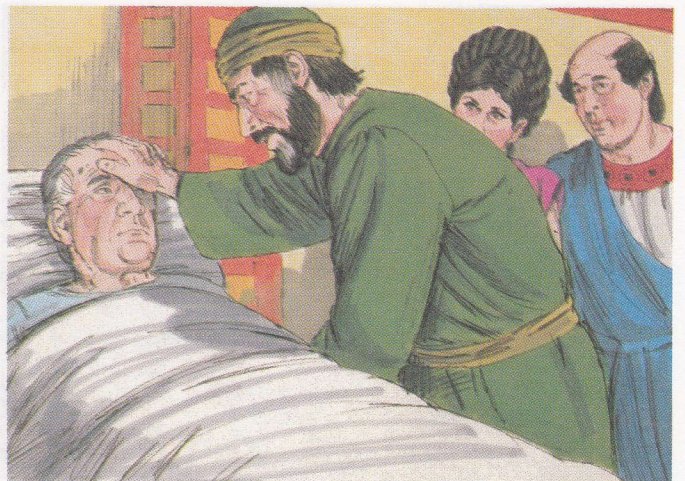
1 The ship taking Paul and other prisoners to Italy had been wrecked on the island of Malta. The islanders were kind and built a fire to warm them.



2 As Paul was putting some wood on the fire, a poisonous snake came out and bit him on the hand. The islanders saw the snake hanging from Paul's hand.



3 They said, "This man must be a murderer. He escaped the sea, but Justice will not let him live." But when Paul did not get sick or die, they said, "He must be a god!"



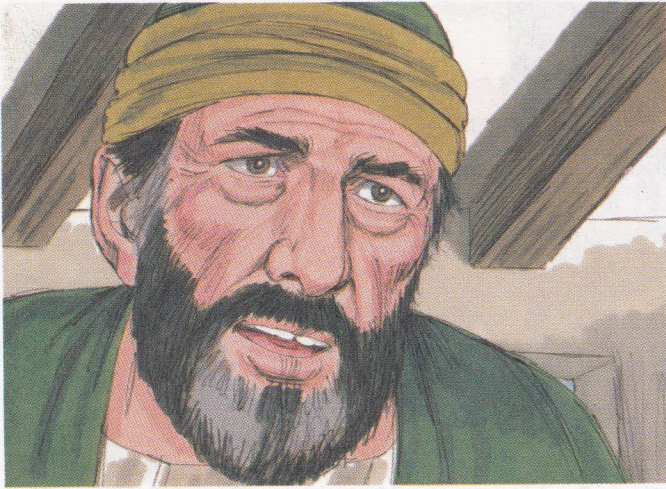
4 The chief official of the island, Publius, invited them to his house for a few days. While there, Paul healed the father of Publius, who was sick with a fever.



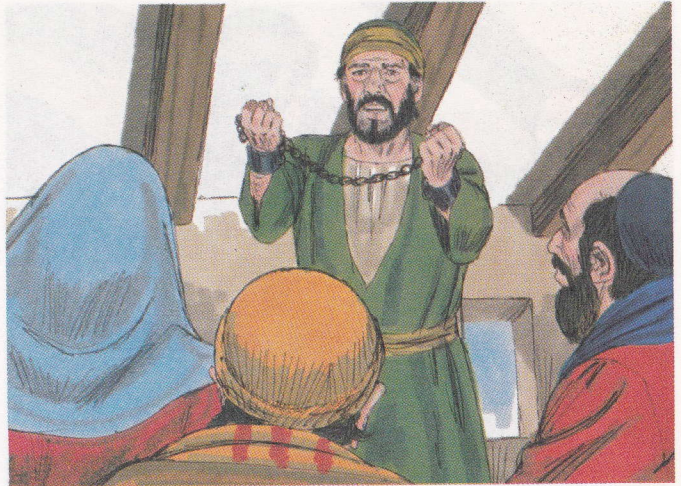
5 Then the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured. The people honored Paul in many ways. After three months, they gave the shipwrecked men the supplies they needed to sail on.



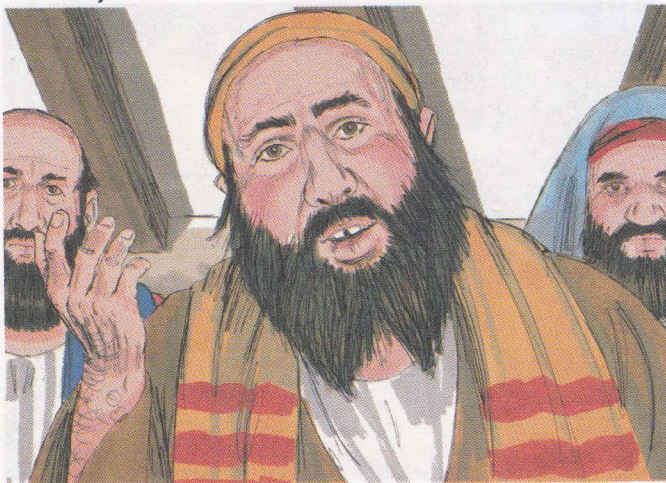
6 Finally Paul reached Rome. After three days, he called together the leaders of the Jews. He said: "My brothers, I have done nothing against our people or our customs."



7 “But I was arrested in Jerusalem and turned over to the Romans. They did not find me guilty of any crime deserving death and wanted to release me. But the Jews objected.”



8 “So I was forced to appeal to Caesar. Thus I asked to see you and talk to you. It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain.”



9 The Jews replied, “We have not had any bad reports about you. But we know that people everywhere are talking against the Christians. We want to know what your views are.”



10 So on a certain day many of the Jews came to where Paul was staying. All day he tried to convince them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.



11 Some believed but others would not. Finally Paul said to them, “I want you to know that God’s salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen.”



12 For two whole years Paul stayed in his own rented house in Rome. He welcomed all who came to see him. He boldly preached about the kingdom of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.