

THE ACTS OF JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

10

Acts 27-28

Paul's Journey to Rome

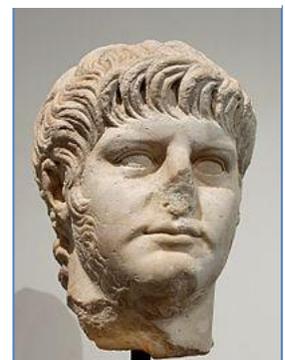
Introduction

Paul had appealed his case to Caesar. He knew he had done nothing wrong. Festus and Agrippa knew Paul had done nothing wrong. But it was God's will that Paul should testify to the truth of Jesus' resurrection before the most powerful man in the Roman Empire, so to Rome Paul was sent.



The emperor in Rome

Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus (AD 37 to AD 68) was emperor of Rome. He ascended to the imperial throne as the fifth Roman emperor at 17 years of age and ruled from AD 54 to AD 68. His reign until 59 was quite prosperous, and he enjoyed the favor of the masses, but after the death of his mother and several key advisors, Nero's reign became more and more erratic. His behavior was capricious and dissolute. The great fire of Rome in AD 64 became an excuse for persecution of Christians. As the empire spiraled into chaos, Nero was denounced by the Senate and committed suicide.



Search the Scriptures

Read Acts 27. As you read through these chapters of Acts, what strikes you about this account of Paul's travels?

What time of year was this journey undertaken?

How many people were on board the larger ship that sailed from Myra?

What words of encouragement did Paul share with the others on the ship at various points during the journey?

How did Paul's prophetic words validate the gospel for the people on board the ship?

Read Acts 28:1-10. What two miraculous signs did the Lord perform through Paul while they were on Malta?

Read Acts 28:11-31. Again, note the historical details that Luke provides as he chronicles the journey from Malta to Rome.

How would you describe Paul's conditions of imprisonment at Rome? Why do you suppose he received such treatment?

What did Paul do to begin seizing opportunities to preach in Rome?

What reaction did the Jews in Rome have to Paul's preaching?

Where did Jesus quote these same verses from Isaiah?

Discuss: Apart from natural unbelief and the personal blindness of sin, what were the greatest factors that kept the Jews from trusting in Jesus as the Messiah, the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, and the Savior of the world?