

Rome at Last

To the Ends of the Earth

Foundation

Bible passage : Acts 27-28

Paul had been sent from Caesarea to Rome under guard of a centurion called Julius. The journey turned out to be very eventful and gave Paul many opportunities to spread the light of Christ. It is evident from Luke's account in Acts that he was present with Paul on the journey and he records in some detail the route, geography and events.

They travelled west by sea but eventually got caught in a very bad storm. Paul sensed that they were in danger of a storm and warned Julius but the Centurion took the advice of the ship's owner and pilot and they sailed on. Most on board were convinced that they were going to die, but Paul explained to them that because Jesus had told him that he would witness to Him in Rome, the storm would not lead to their death. It is not surprising that Paul's advice was ignored, but he was proved to be correct. Eventually they ran the ship aground



Paul's Voyage to Rome

island through the worst of the winter and three months later were able to get a ship to Syracuse on Sicily and then on to the mainland of Italy where they met some fellow Christians. It is a reminder that Paul was not the only means by which the Christian faith had been spread from Jerusalem.

Finally Paul arrived in Rome having been met by some other believers on the approach to the great city and fulfil his ambition, which he had written about in his letter to the Romans (Rom 1.15) to preach the gospel there.

Although Paul was to stand trial he was not imprisoned but under house arrest. He was therefore able to stay by himself with a soldier to guard him and it seems that during this time he was able to speak to many people and so do his part in spreading the light of Christ there. Here Luke closes his account but some of Paul's letters to churches and individuals were written during this time.

Paul "proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance." (v31)

on an island and although the ship and its cargo were lost none of the crew or passengers died.

They learned that the island was called Melite (Malta in English) and the local people showed them great kindness. Paul was able to meet with the chief man of the island and heal his sick father and others. They stayed on the

