

## \*Rome at Last!

Acts 28:1-16

Now after these things were finished, Paul purposed in the Spirit to go to Jerusalem...saying, "After I have been there, I must see Rome also."

(Acts 19:21)

### Acts 20-28: Journey to Rome via Jerusalem

- *Theme:* God's unusual providence in the progress of the gospel



### Rome at Last!

#### A. Signs of Providence

- 1) Extraordinary kindness of the natives
- 2) Preservation from a snake bite
- 3) Opportunity to show God's mercy
- 4) Needs supplied by the natives
- 5) Provision of another ship to Italy
- 6) Warm reception by the believers at Rome

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#### B. Unexpected Gospel Progress

- 1) Receptivity of "barbarians"
  - they were not hostile but very kind though their theology/worldview was idolatrous
  - they represent the openness of Gentile idolaters to the gospel

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### B. Unexpected Gospel Progress

#### 2) Progress through imprisonment

- Paul remains a prisoner when he comes to Rome – the next two years!
- Paul's imprisonment resulted in the "greater progress of the gospel" (Phil. 1:12-13)

<sup>12</sup> Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel,

<sup>13</sup> so that my imprisonment in *the cause of Christ* has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else,

<sup>14</sup> and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.

(Philippians 1:12-14)

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### Lesson:

- *Seek to be fruitful for the gospel wherever God's providence places you*