*Rome at Last!

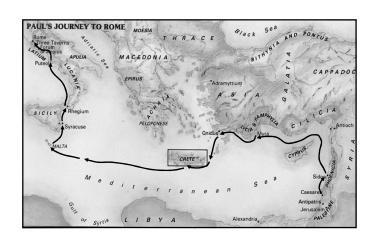
Acts 28:1-16

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

Rome at Last!

- 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

Rome at Last!

- 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)

- ¹² Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel,
- ¹³ so that my imprisonment in *the cause of* Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else,
- ¹⁴ 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)

Rome at Last!

Lesson:

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