

Paul Finishes His Race

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USING THE ATLAS

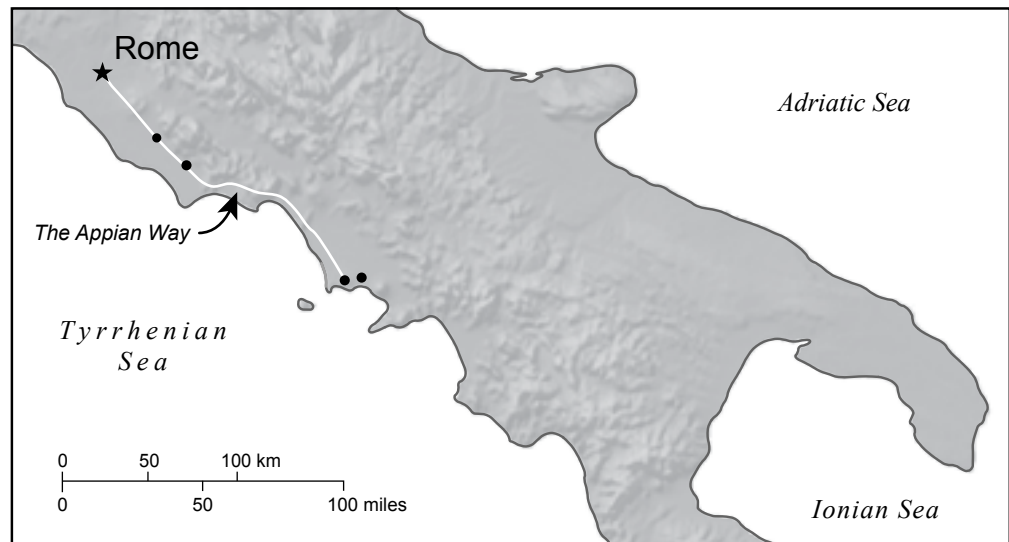
🌐 In *Baker's Bible Atlas*, read the remainder of “The Voyage to Rome” on pages 239 and 240. Answer the questions.

1. Whom did Paul meet at Puteoli and along the Appian Way?

2. When Paul finally arrived in Rome, where did he stay?

Complete the map exercise.

3. Label the two places where Paul met Christians along the Appian Way.



Read – Acts 28:11-31

Write your initials in the blank after you have read this passage. _____

Answer the questions.

4. When Paul called the Jewish leaders together, what did he give as the reason he was bound with a chain?

5. Paul was not free to leave Rome, but what was he free to do?

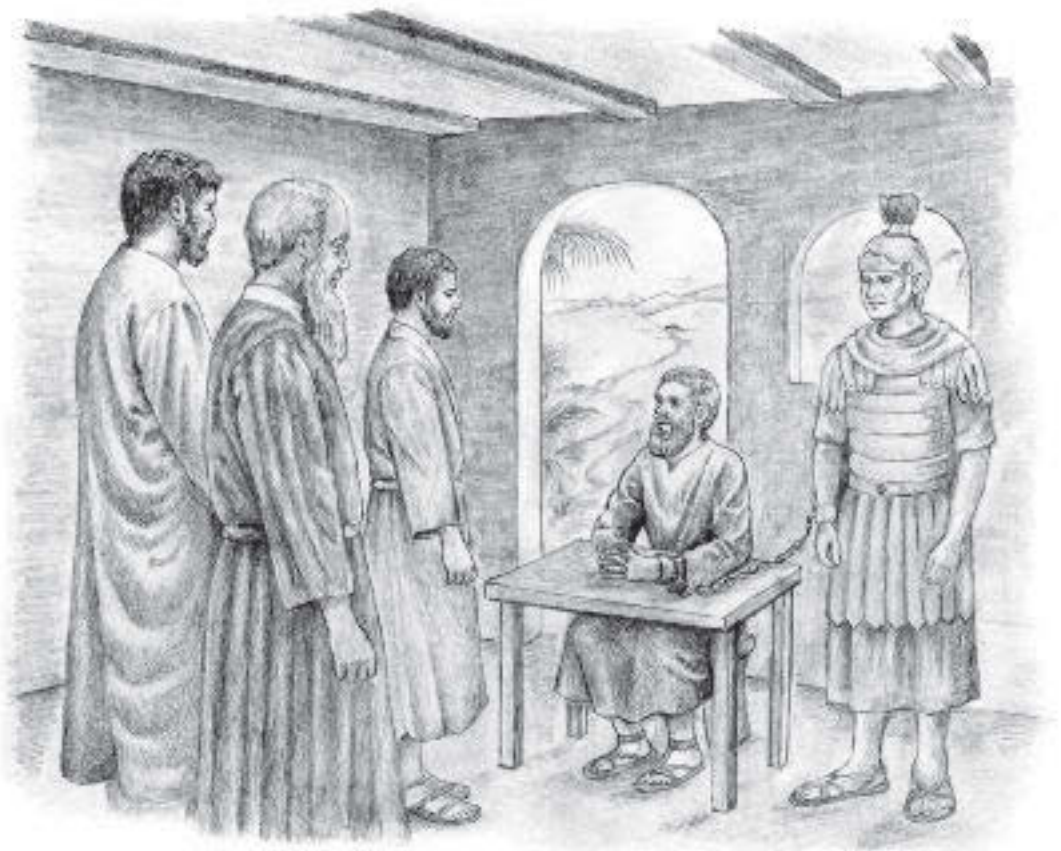
ANALYZE THE BIBLE READING

God used Paul's long and difficult journey from Caesarea to Rome to bring the apostle into favor with Julius, the centurion. Because of his walk with God, Paul had been a blessing to his guard, very likely even saving his life. For this, the centurion was grateful and treated Paul kindly. He allowed Paul to meet with Christians at different places along the journey. When they finally reached Rome, Paul was not put in prison. Instead, he was allowed to rent his own house where a soldier was assigned to watch him.

Paul was not free to leave Rome, but he was free to receive visitors, to write, and to preach. As usual, Paul's love for the Jews motivated him to reach out to them first. He assured them that he was not guilty of crimes against the Jewish people or faith, nor was he accusing the Jews to the Romans. All that Paul wanted to do was convince his people of the truth of Jesus Christ, whom he called "the hope of Israel." The Jewish response was typical: some believed and others did not. Paul told the unbelieving Jews that since they rejected the Gospel, he would share it with the Gentiles who would receive it.

Paul's message to all was straight and clear, as always. He preached God's kingdom revealed on earth through Jesus Christ. He taught that people could be delivered from sin's punishment only through faith in Jesus Christ. The Book of Acts closes with Paul receiving people and faithfully sharing the message of truth.

What a missionary the grace of God had made out of this former enemy of Jesus! Yet Paul was just a man. What God did in Paul's life, he can do in ours. We may not have the same type of ministry Paul did, but by God's grace we can have the same testimony he did. Paul recorded this testimony in 2 Timothy 4:7: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."



UNDERSTANDING THE LESSON

Answer the question.



Reread verses 14 and 15.

6. Other than God Himself, who gave Paul great encouragement? _____

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

① God used hardship and danger to forge a relationship of trust and appreciation between Paul and his Roman authorities.

7. God used this relationship to ____ .

- A. have the charges against Paul dropped
- B. give Paul great freedom for testifying and writing
- C. help Paul earn a lot of money
- D. show that the charges against Paul were not serious

8. Paul's message continued to ____ .

- A. separate the hearers into those who believed and those who rejected the truth
- B. make the Romans fear a Jewish takeover
- C. cause confusion about the truth of Jesus
- D. turn the Gentiles against the early church

9. The book of Acts concludes by telling us that ____ .

- A. Paul was a martyr in the Roman circus
- B. Paul gave up preaching about Jesus
- C. Paul became increasingly famous with the Romans
- D. Paul continued to faithfully and boldly preach and teach

10. What two topics were included in Paul's message to everyone he met?

- A. God's kingdom revealed through Jesus Christ
- B. prophecies that the Jews would reject the Messiah
- C. his innocence of crime against Rome
- D. salvation through faith in Jesus
- E. his plans to preach to the Gentiles

Circle *T* if the statement is true or *F* if it is false.

11. **T** **F** Paul stayed faithful to Jesus to the very end of his life.



12. **T** **F** The Jews in Rome had heard harmful rumors about Paul.



13. **T** **F** Paul appealed to Caesar in order to accuse the Jews before the Romans.

THE BIBLE FOR TODAY

14. What makes it possible for anyone to be faithful all his life even though he is not an apostle like Paul?

Lesson 11

15. A. What action of the apostle Paul proves he forgave the Jews?

- △ B. How might we need to forgive in a similar way today?

FOR MORE UNDERSTANDING



Read Philippians 3:14 to find the answer for this question.

- △ 16. It has been said that if you aim for nothing, you will hit it (nothing). What was Paul's aim, which obviously helped him be faithful to the end?

BIBLE MEMORY

Write the memory verse for this section and its reference.

17.

REVIEW

Circle T if the statement is true or F if it is false. Correct any false statements.

18. **T** **F** Paul's fellow travelers *never* learned to trust his advice.
19. **T** **F** Paul survived the dangerous trip to Rome because of *the centurion's good care of him*.
20. **T** **F** Paul gained the good will of the island people by *immediately preaching about Jesus*.
21. **T** **F** Paul treated the people of Melita *with love* no matter what they thought of him.

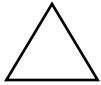
Answer the questions.

22. How did the soldiers plan to keep the prisoners from escaping when the ship sank?

23. How did the people of Melita show kindness to the shipwrecked men upon their arrival?

24. How did Paul's relationship with God help him give advice to the sailors?

Vocabulary Word



ethnic group: a group of people distinguished by unique racial, cultural, or national traits

- ① Often people of different **ethnic groups** look at others with an “us and them” attitude. This attitude may be mild, allowing different groups to freely associate with one another and enjoy each other’s society. However, ethnic differences may lead to strife and grow into intense hatred. God created diversity and when we honor it instead of criticizing those who are different from us, we can enjoy the rich variety God has designed. While God wanted people to scatter all over the earth, He never intended for ethnic groups to hate each other. While He wants His people to remain separate from the evil in the world, He wants all ethnic groups to find the blessing of new life in Jesus Christ.

Read – *Galatians 3:26-29, Acts 17:26, and Colossians 3:10, 11*

Write your initials in the blank after you have read this passage. _____

Complete the exercises.

1. From God’s point of view, how many races of men exist? _____
2. What does salvation through Jesus Christ do to relationships between ethnic groups?

- ① In New Testament times, as today, there were many ethnic groups. Many qualities made these groups distinct from each other. In addition to differences in nationality and culture, there were differences in religion, social status, and language. Some of the people in these groups held strong “us and them” attitudes.
- 📖 3. Read Acts 23:6-8. Circle the letter of the main difference between the Pharisees and Sadducees.

A. racial	C. social
B. religious	D. political
- 📖 4. According to John 4:9, how much social interaction took place between the Jews and the Samaritans? _____
- 📖 5. Mark 12:38-40 shows us Jesus’ view of the righteousness of the scribes. In fact, He warned His disciples to _____ of the scribes.

ANALYZE THE BIBLE READING

The world at the time of Jesus and Paul was filled with significant differences. As a consequence of these differences, there was often ethnic strife. Jews and Samaritans did not get along with each other. Free men and slaves experienced friction between their groups. Romans hated barbarians, and country folk resented people from the cities. Ruling groups such as Roman senators, the Herodians, or the Sadducees and Pharisees all looked down on common people as well.

The Jews and Samaritans were longtime enemies. Their differences stretched all the way back to the time when the northern kingdom of Israel separated from Judah in the south. When Jews from Judah returned to their land after being exiled in Babylon, they wanted to rebuild a culture in which faith in God was supreme. The Samaritans of the Northern Kingdom, however, had blended with other ethnic groups in the land and adopted a different manner of religion. The northerners intermarried with other peoples. They built their own temple in Shechem and accepted only the books of Moses as their Scripture. The Jews returning from exile were determined to have purity of religion, so they rebuffed the Samaritans, believing that the Samaritans had compromised the faith.

Certain Jews earnestly sought to make their religion pure and to avoid idolatry. To aid this effort, they developed specific religious orders: the Pharisees and scribes. Scribes were dedicated to copying and interpreting the Law. Sometimes called lawyers, they helped to decide the legal aspects of Jewish life in light of the Old Testament. The Pharisees dedicated themselves to living a lifestyle separate from common Jews, especially those who adopted Greek or Roman customs and values. The Pharisees were very con-

servative. They joined the scribes in creating a whole body of additional laws that they thought helped people obey Old Testament law. This was done to try to protect God's Law, but it actually caused people to misunderstand what was important to God.

The Sadducees were the ruling class of Jews. One of their number always served as high priest, and Sadducees filled the offices of the chief priests. Unlike the Pharisees, the Sadducees adopted Greek thought and customs. They strove after high positions and influence. They were far more likely than the Pharisees to embrace human reasoning. They disagreed with the Pharisees about the resurrection and the importance of the Law. The Jewish ruling council, the Sanhedrin, was made up of Sadducees, Pharisees, and scribes.

The Herodians included descendants of King Herod the Great and those who supported the king. Herodians allied themselves with Rome so that they could maintain political control of Israel. Most Jewish people despised the Herodians because they were Edomites, an ethnic group descended from Esau, the rejected brother of Jacob.

Of course, almost every Jew despised Gentiles (non-Jews). Among the Gentiles were the hated Romans, who subjected Israel to foreign rule. The Jews dreamed of the day when a strong Jewish ruler would deliver their nation from Roman power. They thought this would be the principal task of the Messiah.

Conservative Jews who were intent on keeping the purity of the Law refused to eat with or have social contact with other ethnic groups as well. However, many Jews in the Roman world adopted Greek and Roman ways. These gradually drifted away from their Jewish roots and began living like Gentiles.

Non-Jews in the Roman world also often hated the Jews. From time to time, Gentile people attacked their Jewish neighbors. They killed Jews or drove them from neighborhoods and then took over their homes and businesses.

The Gospel was introduced into this world of ethnic hostilities. Early Christians encountered

opposition from all these various groups. However, as many converted to Jesus Christ, the church became one body made up of Jews and Gentiles, Pharisees and scribes, Samaritans, Greeks, and Romans. The church showed the world that different ethnic groups could live in harmony.

UNDERSTANDING THE LESSON

Complete the exercises.



6. The Pharisees were separate from the Sadducees, being much more zealous for the Law. They were very careful about details. Read Matthew 23:23.

A. What were some details they paid careful attention to?

B. What important things did they overlook?

7. What important Jewish office did the Sadducees control? _____

8. Check three reasons Jews despised Samaritans.

- A. _____ Samaritans accepted only part of the Old Testament.
- B. _____ Samaritans were wealthy.
- C. _____ Samaritans had intermarried with other ethnic groups.
- D. _____ Samaritans had built their own temple.
- E. _____ Samaritans had conquered Judah.

9. Circle the letter of the word that best defines who Gentiles were.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| A. Romans | C. Greeks |
| B. Herodians | D. non-Jews |

10. What part did the Romans have in the Jews' world during the time of the early church?

11. What did the conservative Jews not do with Gentiles?

Circle *T* if the statement is true or *F* if it is false Correct any false statements.

- 12. **T** **F** In Paul's time the world was divided by *one ethnic difference*.
- 13. **T** **F** *Herodians* were descended from Esau.
- 14. **T** **F** The *Sanhedrin* consisted of Sadducees, scribes, and Pharisees.

THE BIBLE FOR TODAY

Complete the exercises.

△ 15. Name at least three ethnic groups in your home community.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

△ 16. Are ethnic differences a problem in modern times? _____ Give an example.

 17. Reread Acts 17:26. What must we remember to help us relate rightly to other ethnic groups?

FOR MORE UNDERSTANDING

 **Refer again to Colossians 3:10, 11 and read 1 Corinthians 12:13. Then answer the question.**

△ 18. For Christians, Jesus is all in all and breaks down walls of difference between ethnic groups. How does Jesus make one body out of those who follow Him?

BIBLE MEMORY

Complete the verse.

19. "For I _____ not _____ of the _____ of Christ:
_____ it is the _____ of God unto _____ to _____
one that _____; to the Jew _____, and also to the _____."
Romans _____: _____

REVIEW

Circle T if the statement is true or F if it is false. Correct any false statements.

20. **T F** When Paul arrived in Rome, he stayed in a *private room in prison*.

21. **T F** Paul pointed to the *Jewish leaders* as the reason he was bound with a chain.

22. **T F** God used *Julius* and Paul's relationship to give Paul freedom for writing and preaching.

Answer the questions.

23. What did meeting faithful brethren along his way to Rome do for Paul?

24. What effect did Paul's message have on his hearers in Rome?

25. With what information does the book of Acts close?

26. List two topics included in Paul's message.

A. _____

B. _____

27. What will the grace of God do for us that it also did for Paul?
