

**“ROME AT LAST!”**  
**[The Conquered becomes the Conqueror]**  
**Acts 28:11-16**  
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**INTRODUCTION**

Many a life begins with significant potential and great promise. Not very many lives see the fulfillment of that potential and that promise. So often lives begin well and end poorly.

When the Lord saved Saul of Tarsus he told him he would be sent to the Gentiles and would also be a witness to his own people. The Lord also told him that he would stand before rulers and kings and that he would suffer greatly for His sake. The Lord had given Paul opportunity to preach the gospel of Christ throughout a large segment of the Roman Empire; but Paul had never been to Rome itself. His goal was to take the gospel to the center of the Roman Empire and to capture the earthly Roman kingdom for the kingdom of Christ (Acts 19:21). He had written to the Roman Christians while at Corinth and told them his intentions to come to Rome (Rom. 1:11-16). His capture in Jerusalem seemed to jeopardize the possibility of going to Rome; but the Lord appeared to Paul the night following his inquisition before the Sanhedrin and assured him that he would witness for God and the gospel of Christ at Rome also (Acts 23:11).

This is not the way Paul would have had it! He wanted to go to Rome, but not as a prisoner in chains. Isaiah tells us that God’s thoughts are not our thoughts and God’s ways are not our ways. As the heavens are higher than the Earth so his thoughts are above our thoughts and his ways above our ways. The Lord will accomplish his work and he will use his servants; but he knows the best way to do that and as we submit to him he will use us in ways that we could not possibly imagine.

**YIELD YOUR LIFE TO GOD AND HE WILL GIVE YOU AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE HIM.**

- I. A FINISHED COURSE (11-13, 14B)
  - A. Another Ship—one may have been ruined, but the Lord had another one prepared!
    - In early February the shipping lanes would reopen for short travel.
    - The ship was under the patronage of pagan deities--“the twin brothers Castor and Pollux, sons of Zeus and Lena; their constellation was Gemini.
    - Their figureheads were on each side of the prow of the ship, and the ship was likely named after them.
  - B. Continued Journey
    - A three-day stop at Syracuse-- 80 miles from the island of Malta, the government seat of Sicily. The delay may have been due to unfavorable weather.
    - A 70 mile trip to Rhegium on the toe of Italy-- at the Messina Straits.
    - The ship was evidently tacking in and out along the shore until it reached its destination.
    - Favorable winds enabled them to leave one day later and head north along the west coast of Italy.

- On the second day they traveled 180 miles and arrived at Puteoli , one of the chief harbors servicing Rome along with Ostia. Many grain ships unloaded their cargo here and many passengers disembarked here as well.
- C. Arrival at Rome (14b)
- In a sense this is Luke’s conclusion to the book of Acts; here we have the pinnacle of the work of the ministry of the apostle to the Gentiles: **“Thus we came to Rome.”**
- II. FAITHFUL BRETHERN (14-15)
- A. Brethren at Puteoli
- Second largest Jewish colony in Italy outside of Rome.
  - A mercantile city attractive to Jews and Christians.
  - There is no need to suggest that these believers came on the grain ship from Alexandria.
- B. Brethren from Rome (15)
- A welcoming committee to escort Paul rest of the way back to Rome—cf. same word in I Thes. 4:17.
  - One group met at the Appii Forum (Market of Appius) –44 miles from Rome, at the end of the parallel canal along the Appian Way.
  - A second Group me at the Three Inns—33 miles from Rome.
- C. A Brother who is thankful--Paul
- A. He thanks God.
- B. He takes courage.
- III. A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE (16)
- A. Paul’s own rented quarters –23, 30
- B. Chained to a Roman soldier at all times
- C. Soldiers rotated; thus, Paul had continual opportunities to witness  
He must have had numerous converts—See Phil. 1:13.

## CONCLUSION

Imagine that – the conquered prisoner is the conqueror for Christ! Despite all the perversions that have taken place in Rome in the name of Christianity centuries later, we must never forget the powerful impact that the gospel has made on Rome and therefore throughout the entire world. All of this largely because the apostle Paul was taken prisoner to Rome and the prisoner became a mighty conqueror and his chains became the source of freedom for many a lost soul.

While in Rome he wrote four “Prison Epistles” – Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, and Philippians. With God complications and problems can become an open door!

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