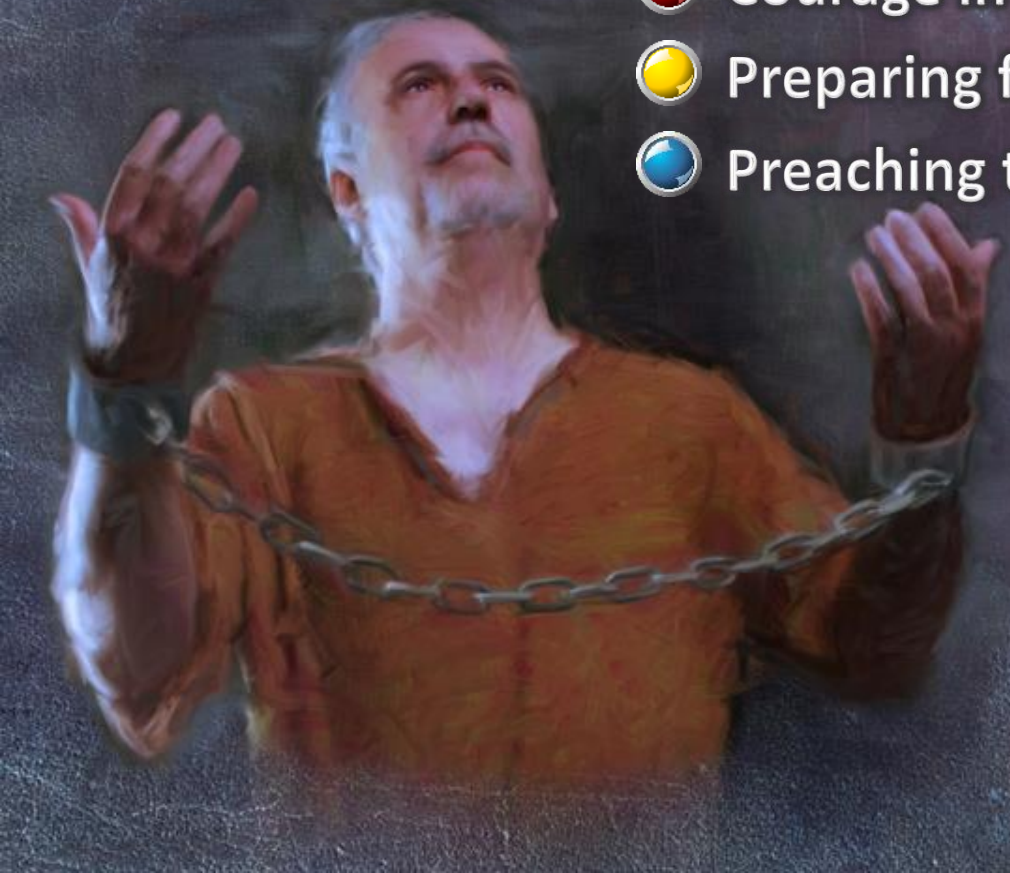
JOURNEY TO ROME

Lesson 13 for
September 29, 2018

Paul couldn't preach in public for some years. Now he was going to the capital city of the Roman Empire, so he could preach there. He would face many dangers and trials in his way to Rome, but they couldn't stop the Gospel.

- Adverse circumstances. Acts 27:1-26
- Dangers at sea. Acts 27:27-44
- Courage in trials. Acts 28:1-10
- Preparing for the trial. Acts 28:11-22
- Preaching the Gospel. Acts 28:23-31



Acts 27:1-26

ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES

"Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also." (Acts 27:10 NIV)

They were leaving by the end of Summer (September), so the journey to Rome would be calm if circumstances were favorable.

Due to unfavorable circumstances, Paul advised the crew to delay the journey. The Roman centurion, Julius, appreciated Paul, but ignored his advice.

The advice from a devout person is better than the best technical advice from this world's experts.

Finally, they lost all hope during the storm, but Paul gave them a second message: an angel had told Paul that everyone would survive. They accepted Paul's message this time.

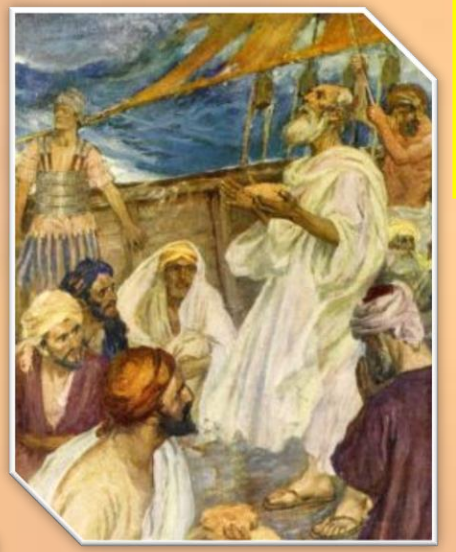
Acts 27:27-44

DANGERS AT SEA

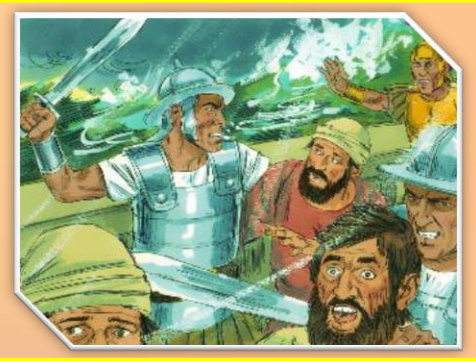
"But striking a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the violence of the waves." (Acts 27:41)

The ship got shipwrecked near Malta fourteen days after Paul's message.

God had promised that everyone would survive, but they also should cooperate:



They had to take heart and eat something (v. 33-36)



If the sailors ran away, everyone would die (v. 30-32)

If the soldiers killed the prisoners, they wouldn't survive (v. 42)

They had to co-operate and help one another (v. 43-44)

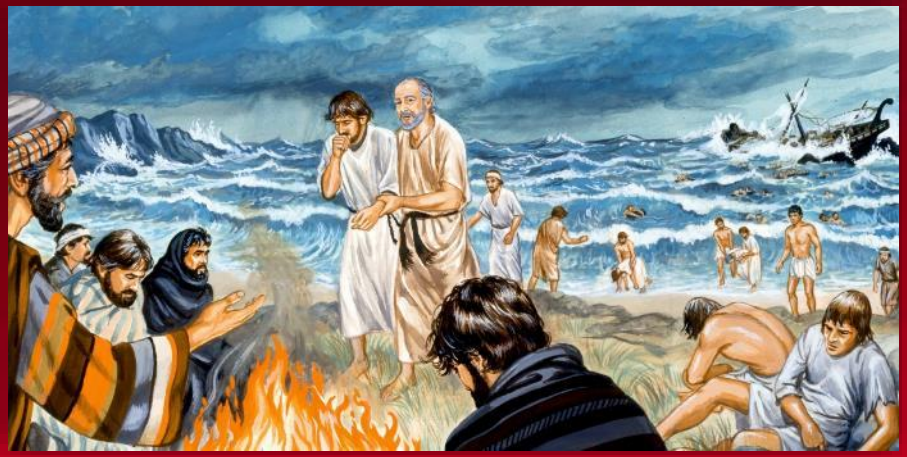
God fulfills His promises and co-operates with humans.

The presence of a single Christian saved the lives of 276 people.

Acts 28:1-10

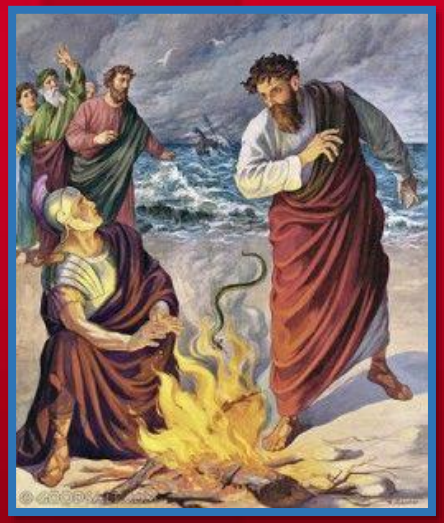
COURAGE IN TRIALS

"The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold." (Acts 28:2 NIV)



The survivors were tired and wet. They were kindly welcomed by the people of Malta.

While helping to light the bonfire, Paul was bitten by a very poisonous snake. However, its venom had no effect on him, which baffled the locals.



There's no evidence that Paul preached the Gospel in Malta, but we know he performed miracles of healing (Gospel in action). He healed the father of Publius, the governor of the island, and all the sick people who came to him.

The people of Malta provided all the supplies the travelers needed to continue their journey from Malta.

Acts 28:11-22

PREPARING FOR THE TRIAL

"And it came to pass after three days that Paul called the leaders of the Jews together. So when they had come together, he said to them: "Men and brethren, though I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans." (Acts 28:17)

Paul was encouraged by his enthusiastic welcome to Rome.

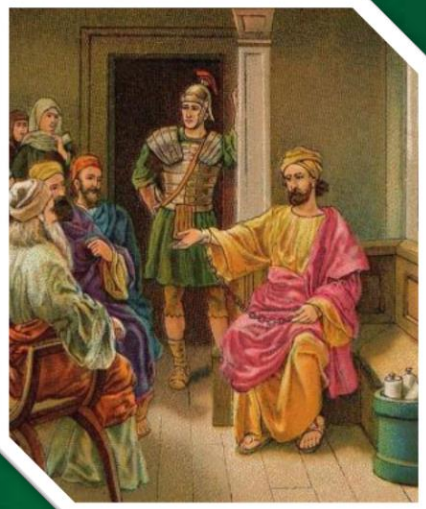
Paul got preferential treatment from the Roman authorities. They let him live under surveillance in a rented house.

He called all the Jewish leaders to prepare for his trial before Caesar. He wanted to explain his innocence to them. They hadn't received any news from Jerusalem, but they were willing to listen to the gospel that Paul was preaching.

Acts 28:23-31

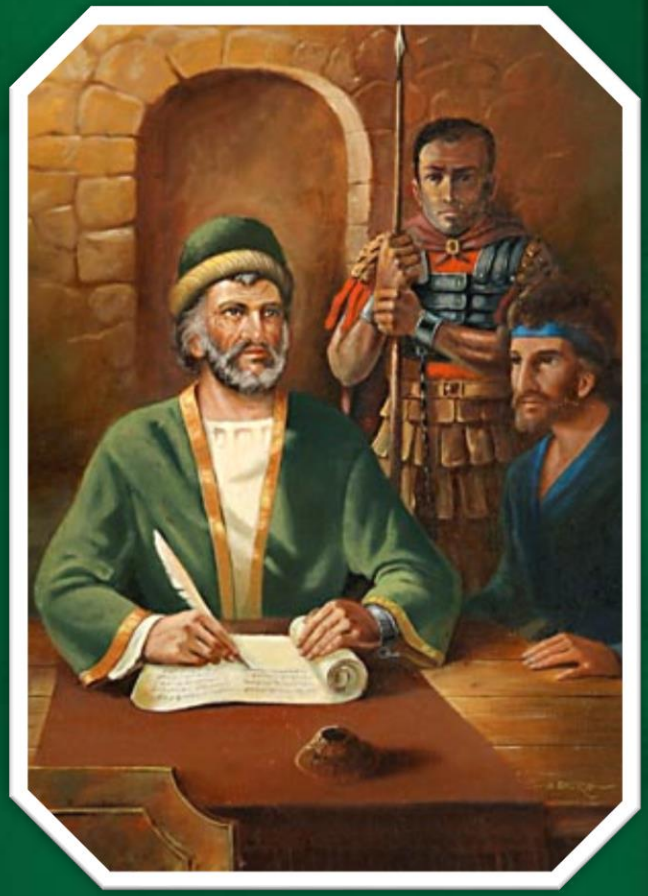
PREACHING THE GOSPEL

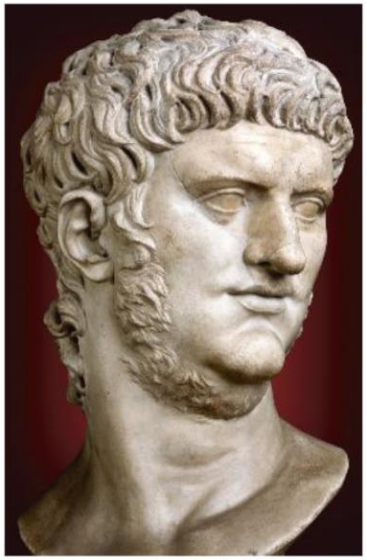
"He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!" (Acts 28:31 NIV)



Not all the Jews accepted the Gospel, so Paul preached to the Gentiles for two years.

We know from Paul's letters that he was acquitted by Nero and took a fourth missionary journey.





Paul was arrested and taken to Nero again during that trip. This time he was beheaded.

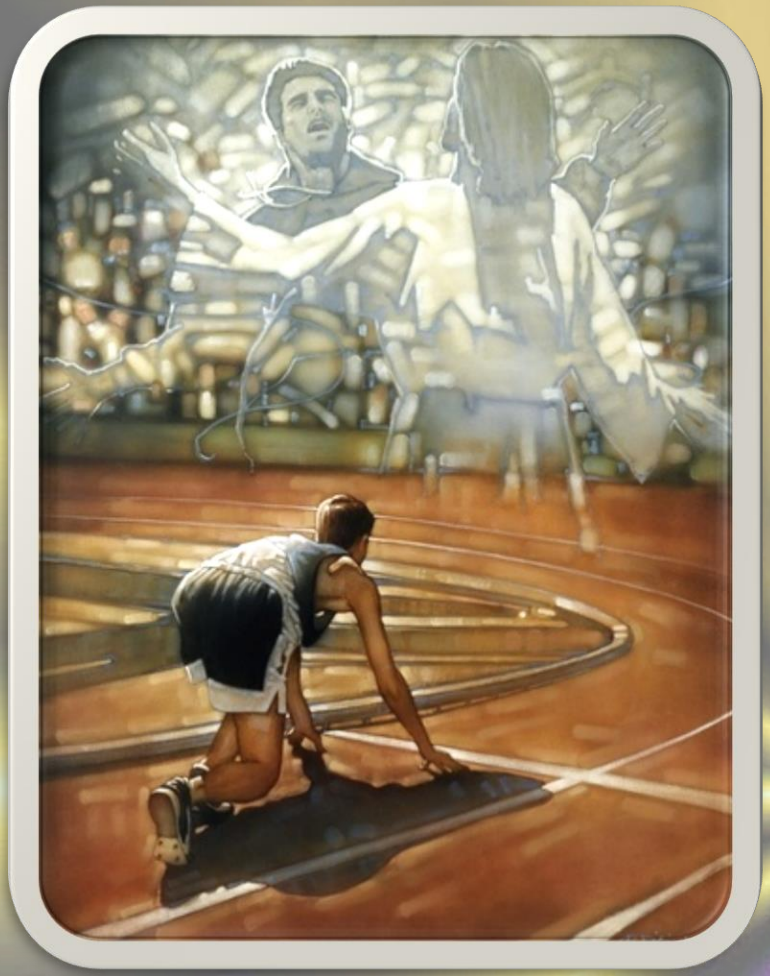
The book of Acts has no ending. It's an open book and we're the ones called to write the last chapter.

Let's take the torch of courageous Paul and continue the uninterrupted work of preaching the Gospel to the whole world.

“We must let our light shine amid the moral darkness Many who are now in darkness, as they see a reflection of the Light of the world, will realize that they have a hope of salvation. Your light may be small, but remember that it is what God has given you, and that He holds you responsible to let it shine forth. Someone may light his taper from yours, and his light may be the means of leading others out from the darkness.”

E.G.W. (Counsels on Health, p. 396)

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."



2 Timothy 4:7-8