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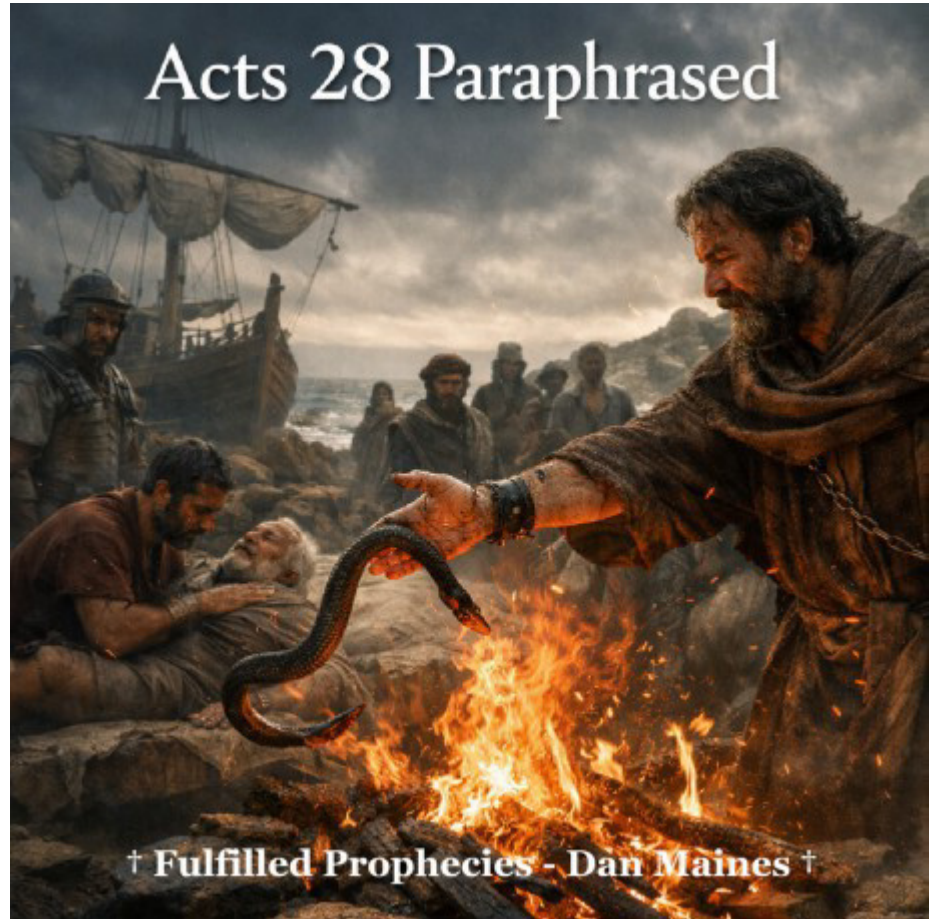
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Acts 28 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Acts 28 Paraphrased

Introduction

† This chapter brings Paul's journey to its completion, showing the gospel reaching Rome just as the Lord promised

† It confirms that nothing can stop the spread of the kingdom, even chains, storms, or imprisonment

† It shows fulfillment, the message going to the Gentiles as Israel hardens their hearts

Acts 28:1

After we made it safely to shore, we learned the island was called Malta

† God preserved every life exactly as promised earlier in the chapter before (Acts 27:22-24)

† This shows divine protection over Paul's mission, nothing could stop what Christ appointed

† Luke records this as eyewitness truth, confirming the historical reality of these events

Acts 28:2

The local people treated us with unusual kindness, they built a fire and welcomed us because it was raining and cold

† Even unbelievers were used by God to provide for His servants

† This reflects God's provision through unexpected means

† Hospitality becomes a tool in God's plan to sustain His people

Acts 28:3

Paul gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, but a viper came out because of the heat and fastened onto his hand

† The attack represents opposition that always follows the work of God

† Yet this moment sets up a demonstration of God's power over danger

† Paul remains calm, showing faith over fear

Acts 28:4

When the locals saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other that he must be a murderer who escaped the sea but justice would not allow him to live

† Their judgment shows how quickly people assume guilt without truth

† This reflects human misunderstanding of God's purposes

† They interpreted events through superstition instead of truth

Acts 28:5

But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no harm

† This fulfills the authority given to believers over deadly things (Mark 16:18)

† God's protection proves Paul's mission is not finished

† The power of God overrides natural danger

Acts 28:6

They expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead, but after watching for a long time and seeing nothing happen, they changed their minds and said he was a god

† The same crowd that judged him guilty now exalts him wrongly

† This shows how unstable human opinion is

† Paul never accepts this praise, keeping focus on God

Acts 28:7

Nearby was land belonging to the leading man of the island named Publius, who welcomed us and treated us kindly for three days

† God opens doors through influential people

† This hospitality becomes a gateway for ministry

† Leadership positions often become strategic points for the gospel

Acts 28:8

The father of Publius was sick with fever and dysentery, and Paul went in, prayed, laid hands on him, and healed him

† This shows God's power working through Paul to confirm the message

† Healing here serves as a sign pointing to the authority of the gospel

† It opens the entire island to receive the truth

Acts 28:9

After this, the rest of the sick people on the island came and were healed

† One act of power led to widespread impact

† The gospel spreads through visible demonstrations of God's authority

† This moment shows the reach of the kingdom even in remote places

Acts 28:10

They honored us in many ways, and when we were ready to leave, they supplied everything we needed

† God provides abundantly through those who receive His work

† The mission continues fully resourced

† This shows God's faithfulness in provision

Acts 28:11

After three months, we set sail on an Alexandrian ship with the Twin Brothers as its figurehead

† The delay shows God's timing is perfect

† Even pagan symbols on ships cannot hinder God's purpose

† The journey continues exactly as planned

Acts 28:12

We landed at Syracuse and stayed there three days

† Each stop is part of the unfolding plan to reach Rome

† The gospel moves step by step, not randomly

† Luke documents each location to show historical accuracy

Acts 28:13

From there we sailed around and arrived at Rhegium, and after one day a south wind sprang up and on the second day we came to Puteoli

† Favorable winds show God's hand guiding the journey

† The timing aligns perfectly with God's plan

† Nothing delays what God has ordained

Acts 28:14

There we found believers and were invited to stay with them for seven days, and so we came to Rome

† The presence of believers shows the gospel had already spread ahead

† Fellowship strengthens those in the mission

† Rome becomes the central stage for fulfillment

Acts 28:15

The believers from Rome heard about us and came to meet us as far as the Market of Appius and Three Inns, and when Paul saw them, he thanked God and was encouraged

† Encouragement comes through the body of Christ

† Even strong leaders like Paul need fellowship

† God uses people to strengthen one another

Acts 28:16

When we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself with the soldier who guarded him

† Even in custody, Paul is given freedom to minister

† God turns restriction into opportunity

† Rome becomes the platform for the gospel

Acts 28:17

After three days, Paul called together the leading Jews and explained that he had done nothing against the people or the customs, yet he was handed over as a prisoner

† Paul always begins with Israel first

† He clarifies truth to remove false accusations

† This continues the pattern seen throughout Acts

Acts 28:18

When they examined me, they wanted to release me because there was no reason for death in my case

† Roman authority repeatedly found Paul innocent

† This exposes the false accusations of the Jews

† Truth stands even under scrutiny

Acts 28:19

But when the Jews objected, I was forced to appeal to Caesar,

not that I had any charge against my nation

† Paul remains faithful to his people despite rejection

† His appeal brings the gospel to Rome

† God's plan works through legal processes

Acts 28:20

For this reason I asked to see you and speak with you, because I am wearing this chain for the hope of Israel

† The hope of Israel is the fulfillment in Christ

† Paul identifies the true meaning of the promises

† His chains represent faithfulness, not defeat

Acts 28:21

They said they had received no letters about him and had heard nothing bad from Judea

† This shows the accusations did not hold weight

† Paul now has a clear opportunity to present truth

† The stage is set for teaching

Acts 28:22

But they said they wanted to hear his views because this sect was spoken against everywhere

† Christianity was widely opposed, fulfilling prophecy (Isaiah 53:3)

† Opposition does not stop curiosity

† Truth draws attention even in rejection

Acts 28:23

They arranged a day, and many came to him, and from morning to evening he explained and testified about the kingdom of God and tried to persuade them about Jesus from the Law and the Prophets

† Paul proves Jesus from the Old Testament

† The message is consistent with all scripture

† The kingdom is the central theme of his teaching

Acts 28:24

Some were convinced by what he said, but others refused to believe

- † The division fulfills prophecy about Israel's response
- † Truth always separates belief from unbelief
- † Not all will receive the message

Acts 28:25

As they disagreed, Paul spoke one final word, saying the Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah about your fathers

- † Paul points directly to prophecy explaining their rejection
- † Scripture already foretold their hardness
- † This confirms fulfillment in their generation

Acts 28:26

Go to this people and say, you will keep hearing but never understand, and keep seeing but never perceive

- † This is the fulfillment of Isaiah 6:9
- † Their blindness is judicial, not accidental
- † God allowed this for the transition to the Gentiles

Acts 28:27

For the heart of this people has become dull, and their ears barely hear, and they have closed their eyes, otherwise they might see and understand and turn, and I would heal them

- † Their condition is self-inflicted rejection
- † Healing was available, but they refused
- † This explains why judgment came upon that generation

Acts 28:28

Therefore let it be known that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, they will listen

- † This marks the full transition to the nations
- † The kingdom is no longer centered in Israel
- † This fulfills the mission given from the beginning

Acts 28:29

After he said this, the Jews departed, having a great dispute among themselves

- † Division confirms the power of the message
- † Truth forces a response
- † The rejection continues among Israel

Acts 28:30

Paul stayed two full years in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to him

- † Even under guard, the gospel spreads freely
- † God's work is not restricted by circumstance
- † This shows the unstoppable nature of the kingdom

Acts 28:31

He preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance

- † The book ends with victory, not defeat
- † The gospel reached Rome just as promised (Acts 23:11)
- † This is the fulfillment of Christ's commission going to the nations

Historical References

- † Josephus records the unrest and division among the Jews during this period, confirming their hardened state
- † Eusebius documents the spread of Christianity into Rome and beyond, showing fulfillment of this mission
- † Clement of Alexandria speaks of apostolic teaching reaching the Gentile world
- † Irenaeus confirms the continuity of apostolic doctrine spreading through the nations

How it applies to us today

- † The kingdom has already been established, we live in its reality now
- † The gospel has gone to the nations, showing God's plan is complete

- † We are called to walk in boldness just like Paul
- † Opposition doesn't stop truth, it reveals it
- † God's promises are fulfilled, not postponed

Q & A Appendix

Q Did Paul fail because he was imprisoned

A No, Acts 28:31 shows he preached without hindrance, proving success not failure

Q Why did Israel reject the message

A Acts 28:26-27 shows their hearts were hardened as foretold in Isaiah

Q What is the hope of Israel

A Acts 28:20 shows it is fulfilled in Christ

Q Has the gospel reached the nations

A Acts 28:28 confirms it was sent to the Gentiles who would hear

Q Is the kingdom future or present

A Acts 28:31 shows Paul preaching it as a present reality

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Acts 28

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

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