

^{28.1} Then after being rescued, we recognized that the island was called Malta. ² The indigenous-people began providing extraordinary friendship to us, for they took us in and kindled a fire because of the rain-showers and the cold. ³ After Paul bundled a multitude of sticks together and put them upon the fire, a venomous-snake, coming out from the heat, attached to his hand. ⁴ When the indigenous-people saw the wild animal hanging from his hand, they said to one another,

“By all means this person is a killer! After being rescued from the sea, justice has not allowed him to live!”

⁵ But, brushing off the wild animal into the fire, Paul suffered no harm. ⁶ They began expecting him to swell up or to fall down suddenly dead. But expecting much and seeing nothing out of place happening to him, they were thrown off and began saying that he was a god. ⁷ Among those there in that place, lands were possessed by a first-rank resident of the island, named Publius, who received us for three days and was friendly as he welcomed us as his guests. ⁸ The father of Publius was reclining, gripped by a fever and diarrhea. Going in to him and praying, Paul put hands upon him and healed him. ⁹ After this happened, the rest of those on the island having weaknesses also began coming to Paul and being cared for. ¹⁰ They valued us greatly and, when we were being brought up into the boat, they gave us what we needed.

¹¹ So after three months we were brought up into a boat, signified by the Twins-of-Zeus, that had passed the storms on an island of Alexandria. ¹² Being brought down from there, we remained in Syracuse for three days. ¹³ Heading out from there, we arrived in Rhegium and, coming upon a south wind after one day, we came into Puteoli on the second. ¹⁴ Finding some brothers there, we were exhorting them and remained seven days. Then we came into Rome ¹⁵ and, there, the brothers, after hearing about us, came as far as the Appius Forum and the Three Taverns to meet us. Seeing them, Paul thanked the Creator and took courage.

¹⁶ When we entered into Rome, Paul was permitted to remain by himself with a soldier guarding him. ¹⁷ After three days, he called together the first-rank Judeans. Coming together, he said to them,

“Men! Brothers! After doing nothing opposed to the people or the customs of the fathers, I was given over in bondage, by those in Jerusalem, into the hands of the Romans. ¹⁸ After judging me, they desired to release me because no reason for death was possessed in me. ¹⁹ But while the Judeans were speaking against me, I was compelled to call upon the Emperor, even though I have nothing to work against my nation. ²⁰ Therefore, because of this reason, I am calling you together so I might see and speak. It is for the cause of the hope of Israel that I am tied up with this chain!”

²¹ They said to him,

“We received no writings about you from Judea, nor has one of the brothers reported or spoken anything evil about you. ²² Besides, we prefer to hear what you understand from you yourself, for it is known by

us that this group—the Way—is being spoken against everywhere.”

²³ After ordering a day to meet with him, they came to Paul in the outsiders-lodge. From first light till evening, he was explaining many things to them—being a testimony to the Rule of the Creator and helping them, from the Torah of Moses and the prophets, to be persuaded about Jesus. ²⁴ Some began being persuaded by the things being spoken, but others were being untrustful. ²⁵ Then they began leaving, without agreeing with one another, after Paul said this,

“The Divine Breath spoke beautifully through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers, ²⁶ saying,

‘Go to this people and say,

“You will try to listen, but you will never understand! You will see what you have seen, but you will never perceive!”

²⁷ The heart of this people has become calloused—they listen with burdened ears and they even shut their ears. They will never see with their eyes, listen with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn back for me to heal them.’

²⁸ Therefore, let it be known to you that the Creator’s rescue has been sent to the nations and they will listen!”

³⁰ Paul remained two whole years in his own rented space and began receiving all those who came to him. ³¹ Without hesitation and with all confidence, Paul was proclaiming the Rule of the Creator and teaching about the Anointed Lord Jesus.