



It's All About The King and The Kingdom

12/6/20

Acts 28:1 And when they had been brought safely through, then we found out that the island was called Malta.

² And the natives showed us extraordinary kindness; for because of the rain that had set in and because of the cold, they kindled a fire and received us all.

³ But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand.

⁴ And when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they *began* saying to one another, "Undoubtedly this man is a murderer, and though he has been saved from the sea, justice has not allowed him to live."

⁵ However he shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm.

⁶ But they were expecting that he was about to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had waited a long time and had seen nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and *began* to say that he was a god.

⁷ Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the leading man of the island, named Publius, who welcomed us and entertained us courteously three days.

⁸ And it came about that the father of Publius was lying *in bed* afflicted with *recurrent* fever and dysentery; and Paul went in *to see* him and after he had prayed, he laid his hands on him and healed him.

⁹ And after this had happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases were coming to him and getting cured.

¹⁰ And they also honored us with many marks of respect; and when we were setting sail, they supplied *us* with all we needed.

¹¹ And at the end of three months we set sail on an Alexandrian ship which had wintered at the island, and which had the Twin Brothers for its figurehead.

¹² And after we put in at Syracuse, we stayed there for three days.

¹³ And from there we sailed around and arrived at Rhegium, and a day later a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli.

¹⁴ There we found *some* brethren, and were invited to stay with them for seven days; and thus we came to Rome.

¹⁵ And the brethren, when they heard about us, came from there as far as the Market of Appius and Three Inns to meet us; and when Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.

¹⁶ And when we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him.

¹⁷ And it happened that after three days he called together those who were the leading men of the Jews, and when they had come together, he *began* saying to them, "Brethren, though I had done nothing against our people, or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.

¹⁸ "And when they had examined me, they were willing to release me because there was no ground for putting me to death.

¹⁹ "But when the Jews objected, I was forced to appeal to Caesar; not that I had any accusation against my nation.

²⁰ "For this reason therefore, I requested to see you and to speak with you, for I am wearing this chain for the sake of the hope of Israel."

²¹ And they said to him, "We have neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor have any of the brethren come here and reported or spoken anything bad about you.

²² "But we desire to hear from you what your views are; for concerning this sect, it is known to us that it is spoken against everywhere."

²³ And when they had set a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God, and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening.

²⁴ And some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others would not believe.

²⁵ And when they did not agree with one another, they *began* leaving after Paul had spoken one *parting* word, "The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers,

²⁶ saying, 'Go to this people and say, "You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; And you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive;

²⁷ For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes; Lest they should see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I should heal them."

²⁸ "Let it be known to you therefore, that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will also listen."

²⁹ *And when he had spoken these words, the Jews departed, having a great dispute among themselves*

³⁰ And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters, and was welcoming all who came to him,

³¹ preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

Isaiah 6:1 In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.

² Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

³ And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.

⁵ Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, with a burning coal in his hand which he had taken from the altar with tongs.

⁷ And he touched my mouth *with it* and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is forgiven."

⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

⁹ And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on listening, but do not perceive; Keep on looking, but do not understand.'

¹⁰ "Render the hearts of this people insensitive, Their ears dull, And their eyes dim, Lest they see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed."

Matthew 13:1 On that day Jesus went out of the house, and was sitting by the sea.

² And great multitudes gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole multitude was standing on the beach.

³ And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, "Behold, the sower went out to sow;

⁴ and as he sowed, some *seeds* fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up.

⁵ "And others fell upon the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil.

⁶ "But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

⁷ "And others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out.

⁸ "And others fell on the good soil, and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.

⁹ "He who has ears, let him hear."

¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

¹¹ And He answered and said to them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.

¹² "For whoever has, to him shall *more* be given, and he shall have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.

¹³ "Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

¹⁴ "And in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, 'You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; And you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive;

¹⁵ For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes Lest they should see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I should heal them.'

¹⁶ "But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.

¹⁷ "For truly I say to you, that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*; and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.

¹⁸ "Hear then the parable of the sower.

¹⁹ "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil *one* comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.

²⁰ "And the one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word, and immediately receives it with joy;

²¹ yet he has no *firm* root in himself, but is *only* temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.

²² "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

²³ "And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit, and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."

All Scripture is NASV