

"We" sections in Acts (16:10-17; 20:5 - 21:1-18)

"was a god" (6)

-The people concluded that since he was not judged by the gods, he must be a god himself.

-Compare to 14:8-18 in Lystra.

-Why did Paul not rebuke them as he had the people of Lystra?

-Perhaps it was because there was no attempt to worship him.

-Throughout Luke's detailed narrative in 27 & 28, he is emphasizing that Paul is not just heaven-directed, but also heaven-protected (shipwreck, snake bite).

"Publius" (7, 8)

-Roman Governor at Malta

Healings (8-9)

-While not mentioned, no doubt that Paul used these healings to confirm the message of the gospel (Heb 2:4)

Final leg of the journey (12-14)
-> Syracuse (12)
-> Rhegium (13)
-> Puteoli (13)
-> Rome (14; 23:11)
*Note the amount of liberty Paul is granted
* (15) Fellow Christians came from all around the area to meet Paul in Rome.
- Rom 15:22-29

1 After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the island was called **Malta**. <- 58 miles south of Sicily

2 The native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain and was cold.

3 When **Paul** had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a **viper** came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand.

4 When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, **Justice has not allowed him to live.**"

5 He, however, **shook off the creature** into the fire and **suffered no harm**.

6 They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited a long time and **saw no misfortune come to him**, they changed their minds and **said that he was a god**.

7 Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the **chief man of the island**, named **Publius**, who received us and entertained us hospitably for **three days**.

8 It happened that the **father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery**. And **Paul** visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him, **healed him**.

9 And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases **also came and were cured**.

10 They also honored us greatly, and when we were about to sail, they put on board whatever we needed.

11 After **three months we set sail in a ship** that had wintered in the island, a ship of **Alexandria**, with the **twin gods** as a figurehead.

12 Putting in at **Syracuse**, we stayed there for three days.

13 And from there we made a circuit and arrived at **Rhegium**. And after one day a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to **Puteoli**.

14 There we found brothers and were **invited to stay with them** for seven days. And so we came to **Rome**.

15 And the brothers there, when they heard about us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, **Paul** thanked God and took courage.

16 And when we came into **Rome**, **Paul** was **allowed to stay by himself**, with the soldier who guarded him. <- *Private Quarters*

"native people" (2,4)

-Lit. "Barbarians"

-Onomatopoeia: to the Greeks and Romans strange languages sounded like "bar-bar-bar" (Col 3:11)

-Connotation today is savage or primitive

-In Paul's time, it simply meant that their language was strange (foreign).

"Justice" (4)

- δίκη (dikē)

- In Greek mythology, Justice (Dike) was a goddess. The daughter of Zeus and Themis

-She was believed to work circumstantially in establishing people's fate

"three months" (11)

-Until sea / wind conditions improved

-See 27:4, 7, 14

"Alexandria" (11)

-Same as in 27:5-6 in Myra

"twin gods" (11)

-Likely Castor and Pollux

-The sons of Leda, queen of Sparta, who in Greek mythology were transformed by Zeus into twin gods represented by the constellation Gemini.

We / Us (16)

-End of final "we" section in Acts.

- From Col 4:10-14 and Phil 23-24, Luke and Aristarchus must have remained with Paul in Rome.

¹⁷After three days he called together the *local leaders of the Jews*, and when they had gathered, he said to them, "*Brothers, though I had 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.*"

¹⁸When they had examined me, they wished to set me at liberty, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case.

¹⁹But *because the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar*—though I had no charge to bring against my nation.

²⁰For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the *hope of Israel* that I am wearing this chain." <- Acts 23:6; 24:21; 26:6-8

²¹And they said to him, "*We have received no letters from Judea* about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken any evil about you.

²²But we desire to hear from you what your views are, for with regard to this sect we know that *everywhere it is spoken against.*"

²³When they had *appointed a day for him*, they came to him at his lodging in *greater numbers*. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the *kingdom of God* and trying to *convince them* about Jesus both from the *Law of Moses* and from the *Prophets*.

²⁴And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved.

²⁵And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: "The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet: <- Isa 6:9-10

²⁶"Go to this people, and say, "*You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.*"

²⁷*For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.*

²⁸Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God *has been sent to the Gentiles*; they will listen."

³⁰He lived there *two whole years* at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him,

³¹*proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.*

* (21) The Jews in Rome claimed that they had no knowledge of the charges against Paul

"we know" (22)

-All Jews had been banished from Rome by Claudius in ~49 A.D. over conflicts and riots concerning Christianity.

-Jews had only been allowed to return after the death of Claudius in 54 A.D.

-This is probably a motivating factor as to why they don't want to be involved in Paul's case.

Verse 29??

-Some of the best ancient manuscripts do not have this verse

- "And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, having much disputing among themselves."

"without hindrance"

(31) - A major theme of the book of Acts is that the progress of the gospel cannot be stopped.

-Phil 4:22

Paul would have a better chance at a fair hearing since they were not aware of the charges from Jerusalem.

"convince them" (23)

-See Paul's message in Acts 13:17-41 from the synagogue in Antioch of Pisidia.

-Law and Prophets Rom 3:21

*Matt 13:13-15

*Mark 4:12

*Luke 8:10

*John 12:39-40

*Rom 11:7-8

"two whole years" (30) - Approximately ~60-62 A.D.

- According to the early church fathers, Paul was released from Rome and traveled for a few more years—during which he would have written the Pastoral Letters (1&2 Tim and Titus)

-Was eventually martyred in Rome under Nero ~66 A.D.

Barbarians

βάρβαρος barbaros; of unc. or., but prob. onomatop. for unintelligible sounds; *barbarous, barbarian*:—barbarian(3), barbarians(1), natives(2).¹

Colossians 3:11 (ESV)

¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Was A God

Acts 14:8–18 (ESV)

⁸ Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. ⁹ He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, ¹⁰ said in a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.” And he sprang up and began walking. ¹¹ And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!” ¹² Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. ¹³ And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. ¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out, ¹⁵ “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. ¹⁶ In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. ¹⁷ Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.” ¹⁸ Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them.

Justice

1472 δίκη (*dikē*), ης (*ēs*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ Str 1349; TDNT 2.178—**1.** LN 38.8 **punishment** (2Th 1:9; Jude 7+; Ac 25:15 v.r. NA26); **2.** LN 12.27 **the goddess Justice** (Ac 28:4+)²

¹ Thomas, R. L. (1998). In [New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : updated edition](#). Foundation Publications, Inc.

² Swanson, J. (1997). In [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)](#) (electronic ed.). Logos Research Systems, Inc.

Healings

Hebrews 2:4 (ESV)

⁴ while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Three Months

Acts 27:4 (ESV)

⁴ And putting out to sea from there we sailed under the lee of Cyprus, because the winds were against us.

Acts 27:7 (ESV)

⁷ We sailed slowly for a number of days and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, and as the wind did not allow us to go farther, we sailed under the lee of Crete off Salmone.

Acts 27:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ But soon a tempestuous wind, called the northeaster, struck down from the land.

Alexandria

Acts 27:5–6 (ESV)

⁵ And when we had sailed across the open sea along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra in Lycia. ⁶ There the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing for Italy and put us on board.

Rome

Acts 23:11 (ESV)

¹¹ The following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome.”

Romans 15:22–29 (ESV)

²² This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. ²³ But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, ²⁴ I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while. ²⁵ At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. ²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. ²⁷ For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. ²⁸ When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you. ²⁹ I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

We / Us

Colossians 4:10–14 (ESV)

¹⁰ Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), ¹¹ and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. ¹² Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. ¹³ For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas.

Philemon 23–24 (ESV)

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, ²⁴ and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

Hope of Israel

Acts 23:6 (ESV)

⁶ Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial.”

Acts 24:21 (ESV)

²¹ other than this one thing that I cried out while standing among them: ‘It is with respect to the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you this day.’”

Acts 26:6–8 (ESV)

⁶ And now I stand here on trial because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers, ⁷ to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day. And for this hope I am accused by Jews, O king! ⁸ Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?

Convince Them

Acts 13:17–41 (ESV)

¹⁷ The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. ¹⁸ And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. ¹⁹ And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance. ²⁰ All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. ²¹ Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. ²² And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be

their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’²³ Of this man’s offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.²⁴ Before his coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.²⁵ And as John was finishing his course, he said, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.’

²⁶ “Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation.²⁷ For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him.²⁸ And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed.²⁹ And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.³⁰ But God raised him from the dead,³¹ and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people.³² And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers,³³ this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm,

“ ‘You are my Son,
today I have begotten you.’

³⁴ And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way,

“ ‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.’

³⁵ Therefore he says also in another psalm,

“ ‘You will not let your Holy One see corruption.’

³⁶ For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption,³⁷ but he whom God raised up did not see corruption.³⁸ Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,³⁹ and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.⁴⁰ Beware, therefore, lest what is said in the Prophets should come about:

⁴¹ “ ‘Look, you scoffers,
be astounded and perish;
for I am doing a work in your days,
a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you.’ ”

Law and Prophets

Romans 3:21 (ESV)

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—

The Prophet

Isaiah 6:9–10 (ESV)

⁹ And he said, “Go, and say to this people:

“ ‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand;
keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’

¹⁰ Make the heart of this people dull,
and their ears heavy,
and blind their eyes;
lest they see with their eyes,
and hear with their ears,
and understand with their hearts,
and turn and be healed.”

Matthew 13:13–15 (ESV)

¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says:

“ ‘ “You will indeed hear but never understand,
and you will indeed see but never perceive.”

¹⁵ For this people’s heart has grown dull,
and with their ears they can barely hear,
and their eyes they have closed,
lest they should see with their eyes
and hear with their ears
and understand with their heart
and turn, and I would heal them.’

Mark 4:12 (ESV)

¹² so that

“they may indeed see but not perceive,
and may indeed hear but not understand,
lest they should turn and be forgiven.”

Luke 8:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’

John 12:39–40 (ESV)

³⁹ Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said,

⁴⁰ “He has blinded their eyes
and hardened their heart,
lest they see with their eyes,
and understand with their heart, and turn,
and I would heal them.”

Romans 11:7–8 (ESV)

⁷ What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, ⁸ as it is written,

“God gave them a spirit of stupor,
eyes that would not see
and ears that would not hear,
down to this very day.”

Verse 29

Acts 28:29 (KJV 1900)

²⁹ And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, and had great reasoning among themselves.

Acts 28:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ But when the Jews spoke against *it*, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar, not that I had anything of which to accuse my nation.

Without Hindrance

Philippians 4:21–22 (NKJV)

²¹ Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. ²² All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar’s household.