



Paul's Gospel Meetings in Rome

Acts 28:17-31

Paul's Gospel Meetings in Rome

- When Paul arrived at Rome following an eventful sea voyage, he was immediately placed under house arrest
 - Acts 28:16 - “Now when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard; but Paul was permitted to dwell by himself with the soldier who guarded him.”

Paul's Gospel Meetings in Rome

- He waited two years to make his appeal to Caesar
 - Acts 25:9-12 - “But Festus, wanting to do the Jews a favor, answered Paul and said, Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and there be judged before me concerning these things? 10 So Paul said, I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you very well know. 11 For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar. 12 Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, You have appealed to Caesar? To Caesar you shall go”
 - Acts 28:30 - “Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house...”

Paul's Gospel Meetings in Rome

- However, he was quite active during that time
 - He met with the Jewish leaders in Rome
 - He received and taught many visitors, including his guards
 - He wrote four epistles (Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians)
 - Even when restricted, Paul was productive in the Kingdom

Paul's Meetings With Jewish Leaders

- The first meeting, Paul called for the leaders of the Jews in Rome
 - Acts 28:17 - “And it came to pass after three days that Paul called the leaders of the Jews together...”

Paul's Meetings With Jewish Leaders

- He explained the reason for his appeal to Caesar
 - Acts 28:17-20 - "...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, 18 who, when they had examined me, wanted to let me go, because there was no cause for putting me to death. 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. 20 For this reason therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain."

Paul's Meetings With Jewish Leaders

- It was for the hope of Israel he was bound in chains
 - Acts 26:6-8 - “And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers. 7 To this promise our twelve tribes, earnestly serving God night and day, hope to attain. For this hope's sake, King Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews. 8 Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?”

Paul's Meetings With Jewish Leaders

- The Jewish leaders wanted to hear more
 - Acts 28:21-22 - “Then they said to him, “We neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor have any of the brethren who came reported or spoken any evil of you. 22 But we desire to hear from you what you think; for concerning this sect, we know that it is spoken against everywhere.”

Paul's Meetings With Jewish Leaders

- Paul accomplished a great deal in this first meeting.
 - He established his credentials as a credible witness for Christ.
 - He made a connection between his preaching of the Gospel of Christ with the prophesied hope of the Jews.
 - He captured their interest in hearing more of his message.

Paul's Meetings With Jewish Leaders

- In second meeting, even more came to hear Paul; and, he taught them all day
 - Acts 28:23 - “So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.”
- He taught about Jesus and the kingdom of God
 - Acts 8:12 - “But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.”

Paul's Meetings With Jewish Leaders

- He taught from the Law of Moses and prophets
 - Luke 24:44-47 - “Then He said to them, These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me. 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. 46 Then He said to them, Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

Paul's Meetings With Jewish Leaders

- Their reaction was mixed; some were persuaded, while others disbelieved, the same reactions of hearers today
 - Acts 28:24 - “And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved.”

Paul's Meetings With Jewish Leaders

- Paul concluded with a solemn warning, the same kind of warning given to hearers today
 - Acts 28:25-28 - “So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, 26 saying, 'Go to this people and say: Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive; 27 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them. 28 Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!” (From Isa. 6:9-10)

Paul's Meetings With Jewish Leaders

- If they will not hear the Gospel, God will find people who will
 - Isa. 42:1, 6 - Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles... 6 I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles

Paul's Meetings With Jewish Leaders

- They left disputing among themselves
 - Acts 28:29 - “And when he had said these words, the Jews departed and had a great dispute among themselves.”
- Paul had multiple repeat meetings in Rome
 - Acts 28:30-31 - “Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, 31 preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.”

Paul's Character In Rome

- He rejoiced in his sufferings
 - Col. 1:24 - “I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church”
 - Phil. 2:16-18 - “Holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain. 17 Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. 18 For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.”

Paul's Character In Rome

- He magnified Christ in his sufferings
 - Phil. 1:20 - “According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.”

Paul's Character In Rome

- He was given the opportunity to practice what he preached
 - Rom. 5:3-5 - “And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

Paul's Confidence In Rome

- He fully expected to be released from prison
 - He made plans to visit Philemon - Philemon 22
 - He wanted to visit the Philippians - Phil. 1:23-27, 2:24
 - He was released briefly and traveled for a while

Paul's Confidence In Rome

- J.W. McGarvey in his commentary on Acts: “No two years of Paul's life were better filled with earnest labor than these two spent in his Roman prison.”
- Phil. 1:12-14 - “But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, 13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; 14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.”

Paul's Confidence In Rome

- Paul didn't need to be free to travel to be effective; God wants us to grow where we are planted and to produce fruit regardless of our condition. We learn from Paul that good can flourish in the soil of hardship if we glorify God regardless of the circumstances.
- Phil 4:11-13 - "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."