



Study Guide: Acts – Chapter 28

Study Guide: Acts – Chapter 28

This study guide provides an educational overview of Acts Chapter 28 using a verse-by-verse structure, theological context, and application-oriented insights grounded in Scripture.

Introduction

Acts Chapter 28 serves as the concluding chapter of the Book of Acts, bringing to a climax the apostle Paul's journey to Rome. This chapter highlights the fulfillment of Paul's mission to testify before Caesar and illustrates God's providential protection and guidance even in adverse circumstances. Readers should watch for the themes of divine sovereignty, the spread of the gospel under Roman authority, and the tension between acceptance and rejection of the message of Christ.

Context

The immediate literary context of Acts 28 follows Paul's perilous voyage and shipwreck on the island of Malta. The book of Acts, authored by Luke, traces the early church's expansion through the work of the Holy Spirit and the apostles, culminating in Paul's legal appeal to Caesar. Historically, this chapter is set during the Roman Empire's rule, highlighting the intersection of divine mission and imperial authority. Key figures include Paul, the Roman centurion Julius, the islanders of Malta, and the Jewish leaders in Rome. The setting shifts from the island to Rome, where Paul is under house arrest but continues his ministry.

Outline

The chapter opens with Paul's arrival and miraculous survival on Malta, where he heals and gains favor with the islanders. Following this, Paul embarks on the final leg of his journey to Rome. Upon arrival, he is allowed to live by himself under guard, where he boldly proclaims the kingdom of God to the Jewish leaders. The chapter concludes with a mixed response to Paul's message and a summary statement about the gospel's unstoppable progress despite opposition.

Verse-by-Verse Study



Verses 1-3: Paul and those with him are welcomed by the Maltese people after the shipwreck. Paul's miraculous healing of Publius' father establishes his authority and God's favor, leading to hospitality and provision for all survivors.

Verses 4-6: The islanders' initial fear of Paul as a god is quickly corrected, underscoring the human nature of the apostle and God's power working through him.

Verses 7-10: Paul's healing ministry continues on Malta, resulting in many others being cured, which further demonstrates the gospel's power and God's providential care.

Verses 11-16: After three months, Paul sets sail for Rome, arriving safely and being allowed to live under guard in a rented house, where he continues his ministry openly.

Verses 17-22: Paul invites the Jewish leaders in Rome to meet with him, recounting his ministry and the reasons for his imprisonment. The Jewish leaders express uncertainty about the charges against him and arrange to hear his defense.

Verses 23-27: Paul preaches to the Jewish leaders from the Scriptures, explaining the necessity of the Messiah's suffering and the inclusion of the Gentiles. Some accept the message, while others reject it, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy about hardened hearts.

Verses 28-31: The chapter closes with Paul boldly proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about Jesus Christ to all who visit him, despite his imprisonment. The gospel continues to advance unhindered, emphasizing God's sovereign plan.

Key Themes

One key theme is divine providence, as God's hand is evident in Paul's survival, healing ministry, and safe arrival in Rome. Another theme is the fulfillment of God's promises through the gospel's expansion to the Gentiles, even under Roman authority. The chapter also highlights the tension between acceptance and rejection of the gospel, showing that while some embrace the message, others resist it, fulfilling prophecy. Lastly, the theme of bold witness despite adversity underscores the apostolic mission's unstoppable nature.

Cross-References

Paul's healing on Malta echoes Jesus' healing miracles in the Gospels, such as the healing of Peter's mother-in-law (Matthew 8:14-15), demonstrating continuity in God's power through His servants. The invitation to the Jewish leaders parallels Paul's earlier



synagogue ministries (Acts 13:14-43), emphasizing his consistent approach to sharing the gospel. The quotation of Isaiah 6:9-10 in verses 25-27 connects this chapter to Old Testament prophecy about Israel's spiritual blindness, a theme also seen in Jesus' ministry (John 12:39-40). Finally, Paul's bold proclamation from prison recalls his earlier imprisonments and unwavering commitment (Philippians 1:12-14), illustrating perseverance in witness.

Application

Modern disciples can learn from Paul's example of faith and boldness in difficult circumstances, trusting God's providence even when facing uncertainty or opposition. The chapter encourages believers to see challenges as opportunities for ministry and to remain steadfast in proclaiming the gospel. It also calls for sensitivity to the varied responses to the message, urging patience and reliance on the Spirit rather than frustration. Furthermore, the inclusion of Gentiles in God's plan challenges believers to embrace a global vision for the gospel's reach.

Summary

Acts 28 concludes the narrative of Paul's journey to Rome, showcasing God's providential care through miraculous protection and healing, the apostle's bold witness to both Jews and Gentiles, and the gospel's unstoppable advance despite opposition. The chapter encapsulates the fulfillment of God's promises and the expansion of His kingdom under challenging circumstances, inviting believers to trust in divine sovereignty and to persist in faithful proclamation.