

The Acts of the Apostles

Mountain View church of Christ Adult Bible Class

October – December (Fall Quarter) 2021 (Michael Burke & Dan Roper)

Lesson 1:	Sunday	October 3, 2021	Introduction; ch. 1
Lesson 2:	Wednesday	October 6, 2021	Acts 2:1-21
Lesson 3:	Sunday	October 10, 2021	Acts 2:22-47
Lesson 4:	Wednesday	October 13, 2021	Acts 3
Lesson 5:	Sunday	October 17, 2021	Acts 4
Lesson 6:	Wednesday	October 20, 2021	Acts 5
Lesson 7:	Sunday	October 24, 2021	Acts 6:1 – 7:16
Lesson 8:	Wednesday	October 27, 2021	Acts 7:17-60
Lesson 9:	Sunday	October 31, 2021	Acts 8:1-25
Lesson 10:	Wednesday	November 3, 2021	Acts 8:26 – 9:22
Lesson 11:	Sunday	November 7, 2021	Acts 9:23 – 10:33
Lesson 12:	Wednesday	November 10, 2021	Acts 10:34 – 11:18
Lesson 13:	Sunday	November 14, 2021	Acts 11:19 – 12:25
Lesson 14:	Wednesday	November 17, 2021	Acts 13:1-37
Lesson 15:	Sunday	November 21, 2021	Acts 13:38 – 14:28
Lesson 16:	Wednesday	November 24, 2021	Acts 15
Lesson 17:	Sunday	November 28, 2021	Acts 16
Lesson 18:	Wednesday	December 1, 2021	Acts 17
Lesson 19:	Sunday	December 5, 2021	Acts 18
Lesson 20:	Wednesday	December 8, 2021	Acts 19
Lesson 21:	Sunday	December 12, 2021	Acts 20
Lesson 22:	Wednesday	December 15, 2021	Acts 21
Lesson 23:	Sunday	December 19, 2021	Acts 22
Lesson 24:	Wednesday	December 22, 2021	Acts 23-24
Lesson 25:	Sunday	December 26, 2021	Acts 25-26
Lesson 26:	Wednesday	December 29, 2021	Acts 27-28

Chapter 1 Questions:

1. Jesus says several things before His ascension that suggests something imminent is to happen. Two of them are in v. 4; the other is in v. 5. Can you list them?
2. Jesus indicates that something superior to John's baptism was to unfold, and crucial to these events was the Holy Spirit. How is the coming influence of the Spirit upon them described in:
v. 5

v. 8
3. What do you make of the apostles' question in Ac 1:6?
4. Can you tie Acts 1:8 to the format of the book of Acts?
5. What passage(s) can you cite indicating that the coming of the Holy Spirit was "*the Promise of the Father*"?
6. What instruction or command was given to the apostles that would enable them to manipulate or influence the coming of the Holy Spirit?
7. Is there any evidence that would reasonably lead one to the conclusion that the promise of the baptism with the Holy Spirit applied to anyone other than the apostles?
8. When did two angels in shining garments help other of Jesus' disciples understand the significance of what they saw?
9. From where did Jesus ascend to heaven?
10. What did the apostles do with the others in the "upper room"? What do you think about the intensity of these activities given the events that have transpired?
11. What observations can you make about inspiration of the Scriptures from Acts 1:16?

Chapter 2 Questions:

1. Is there anything in the text that suggests the apostles were still in the upper room?
2. Were the tongues in which the apostles spoke a "spirit language" or something else? How do you know? What was miraculous about it?
3. What were the various responses by those watching these events?
4. What kind of language is Acts 2:19-20? What does it generally signify?
5. David is cited twice (Ps 16:8-11; Ps 110:1) in v. 25-35 to indicate that the Messiah would not remain dead but would be resurrected.
 - Jesus would rise to _____.
 - Jesus was exalted to _____.
 - Jesus received the promise _____.
 - As a result Jesus has _____.
6. Think about the logistics of baptizing 3,000 people. What does this show about those people?
7. What was the nature of Peter's further exhortations on Pentecost?
8. Describe the activities of their new spiritual lives. How might we fall short of this pattern in our own era?
9. Read John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; and 16:7-15. How do we see the Holy Spirit fulfilling His role on Pentecost just as Jesus had promised?
10. What Jewish feast was held on the day of Pentecost (Lev. 23:15-21)? What was the purpose of this feast? Why was it appropriate that the church was begun at the time of this feast? What day of the week would it have fallen on?

Chapter 3 Questions:

1. What does Peter immediately disavow concerning the miracle?
2. How does Peter tie in ancient Jewish history with recent events?
3. What makes their rejection of Jesus so heinous?
4. What role do the apostles play in the aftermath of His death?
5. To whom does Peter attribute the healing of the lame man?
6. To what does Peter attribute their rejection of Jesus?
7. What had God “fulfilled” in the death of Jesus?
8. What does Peter urge these people to do to repair the damage?
9. Cite the verses where Peter mentions the prophets.
10. When had these prophecies begun?
11. What is the nature of Moses’ prophecy? How long did it take for his words to come true?
12. What covenant does Peter mention with the Jews’ ancestry?

Chapter 4 Questions:

1. What positive result came from the preaching of Peter in chapter 3?
2. To whom had miraculous powers been previously attributed by the Jews (Luke 11:15)?
3. Peter makes several points in his short address. List the main thoughts:
 - a. _____.
 - b. _____.
 - c. _____.
 - d. _____.
 - e. _____.
 - f. _____.
4. What was the real force behind Peter's words (Ac 4:8)? Where was this promised?
5. Where else in the NT is Ps 118:22 cited?
6. How did the Sanhedrin view Peter and John? What did they realize about them?
7. What did Peter and John ask the Sanhedrin to judge for themselves?
8. What kept the Sanhedrin from punishing Peter and John more severely?
9. What might have made material needs among these saints so acute?

Chapter 5 Questions:

1. Describe the actions of Ananias and Sapphira relative to:
 - a. Satan
 - b. the Holy Spirit
 - c. Barnabas
 - d. other brethren
 - e. each other
2. What reaction did the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira have upon the church?
3. What Old Testament incident is strikingly similar to the story of Ananias & Sapphira? Describe the similarities and explain why such harsh punishment was administered.
4. What effect did this discipline have upon outsiders becoming Christians?
5. At this early stage, who is working miracles in the church?
6. Compare the Jews' statement in Matt. 27:25 to Acts 5:28. Why have they changed their attitude?
7. What was the apostles' slogan as stated in 5:29? List some circumstances today where we must take the same bold stance.
8. What is the implication of Peter's assertion about the Holy Spirit in Acts 5:32?
9. Which of the two episodes in Acts 5 seems to be the greater threat against the church?

Chapter 6-7 Questions:

1. Was Stephen performing great wonders because he was "full of the Spirit" (6:3)? Why or why not?
2. What purpose would be served by such a public appointment?
3. What effects followed the wise handling of this matter (Ac 6:7)?
4. Stephen's sermon can be subdivided by the people of whom he speaks. For each section extract the main point(s) as it relates to Stephen's argument. You really need to read the entire sermon before attempting this.
Abraham (v. 2-8)

Joseph (9-19)

Moses (20-44)

David & Solomon (45-50)

6. What does it mean to be "stiff-necked"? What does it mean to be "uncircumcised in heart and ears"?
7. What had Israel done with the opportunities God had given them?
8. What progression do you observe from Acts 2:37 to 5:33 to 7:54ff?
9. List as many similarities as you can between Stephen's death and Jesus' death. How would prophecy have been violated if the Sanhedrin had done to Jesus what they did to Stephen?

Chapter 8 Questions:

1. On a practical level, why was it beneficial that the church scatter? (consider 2:45; 4:34-35; 6:1)
2. On a higher level, how does Acts 8:4 fit in with God's eternal plan? (see Acts 1:8)
3. There are two Philips mentioned in the NT: one of the 12 apostles (Mark 3:18) and one of the seven men who ministered to the Grecian widows (Acts 6:5). How do you know which Philip this is in Acts 8?
4. Describe the effects of Philip's miracles.
5. What phrases describe Philip's preaching? What were the effects of this preaching?
6. What is the significance of v. 14-17 as it relates to the Holy Spirit?
7. What was the Ethiopian reading? A newspaper? A novel? A magazine? What lesson do we need to learn from this man's example?
8. What miracle did Philip work to persuade the Ethiopian to listen?
9. How would you preach Jesus to someone starting from Isaiah 53?
10. What does the Ethiopian's request say about the necessity of baptism for salvation?
11. What must we conclude about the nature of baptism from v. 38-39?
12. Do you think the seven men in Acts 6 were given the Holy Spirit primarily to help them in their task of assisting the Grecian widows?

Chapter 9 Questions:

1. Describe the intense persecution that Christians suffered at the hands of Saul. By what authority did Saul do these things?
2. Try to reconstruct the conversation between Saul and the voice from heaven using the accounts from Acts 9, 22, and 26.
3. How far is Damascus from Jerusalem? What does that indicate about Saul? The church?
4. What did God tell Ananias in a vision? What was Ananias' response?
5. At what point was Saul saved?
 - a. After Jesus talked to him
 - b. After fasting and praying 3 days
 - c. After Ananias preached to him
 - d. After he was baptized
6. Since Ananias was not an apostle, and therefore could not convey miraculous gifts to anyone, how would you explain the phrase "*has sent me that you may...be filled with the Holy Spirit*" (9:17)?
7. How did the Jewish community react to Paul's preaching? Is fleeing always a mark of cowardice? Where did Paul go and why?
8. Explain how the brethren in Jerusalem reacted to Paul's desire for fellowship.
9. How did Joseph live up to his nickname of Barnabas?
10. Describe the "state of the church" at this point in time. How significant was Saul's conversion in the grand scheme of things?
11. What miracles of Jesus are nearly identical to the ones Peter performed?

Chapter 10 Questions:

1. How is Cornelius described? Was he a Jewish proselyte?
2. How could God hear Cornelius' prayer in view of John 9:31 and 1 Peter 3:12?
3. What is significant about the angel's instructions to Cornelius? How else (in the world's view) might this have happened?
4. What happened right after Peter's vision? Coincidence?
5. Who accompanied Peter to Caesarea? What are some possible reasons for this?
6. By what method of reasoning does Peter conclude that God had shown him not to call a man common or unclean? Were there any men in the sheet?
7. What were the main points of Peter's sermon? How did these points differ from his previous sermons to Jewish audiences?
8. When the Holy Spirit first was manifested in this way on the day of Pentecost, the unbelievers were amazed. Who is now "astonished" by such an event?
9. Did Peter force baptism on Cornelius' household in 10:46-48?
10. At what point was Cornelius saved?
 - a. After being a good man
 - b. After the angel appeared to him
 - c. After the Holy Spirit fell on him
 - d. After he was baptized
11. Paul was just commissioned to preach to the Gentiles, so why is Peter doing it here?
12. In 10:47, Peter makes a link between the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Cornelius and the outpouring at Pentecost, using the phrase "just as we did". How were these episodes similar? How were they different?

Chapter 11 Questions:

1. Why did some take issue with Peter after the Cornelius incident?
2. What did Peter say in his defense? Did he convince the critics?
3. According to 11:14, what was Cornelius told was going to save him? Was that meant literally?
4. What was the purpose of the Holy Spirit outpouring on Cornelius? (11:18; 15:8)
5. Compare Acts 11:18 and Acts 5:31. How is repentance “given” by God? How did God grant repentance to the “Gentiles” when only Cornelius and his associates became Christians?
6. Describe the contrast between 11:19 and 11:20.
7. What is the implied meaning of “turned to the Lord” in 11:21? (compare 3:19)
8. Why did Barnabas travel to Antioch? Why was he a good choice for this?
9. How does Barnabas act as a mentor to Saul? Is this the first time?
10. What is significant about Acts 11:26? Where do you think that new name came from?
11. What is remarkable about the generosity described in 11:29?

Chapter 12 Questions:

Historical note: the Herod in Acts 12 is Herod Agrippa I, a grandson of Herod the Great (on both sides of the family!). He was the procurator of Judea from 41 to 44 AD.

1. How was Herod hostile to the church? Why?
2. Describe the security measures taken against the vicious criminal Peter. Why do you think this was done?
3. Describe Peter's escape, and his state of mind during it all.
4. How was Peter received at Mary's house? What other event does this remind you of?
5. What do you suppose the brethren at Mary's house were praying for? How do you account for their disbelief of Rhoda's news?
6. In 12:17, was Peter unaware that James had been martyred? Explain.
7. How did Herod die? For what? What might that statement mean?
8. Who returned with Barnabas & Saul to Antioch? What do we know about him?
9. What aspect of God is most evident in Acts 12? How would this have impacted the Jews?

Chapter 13 Questions:

1. What edict did the Holy Spirit give? How were the missionaries sent off?
2. Who else began the journey with Barnabas & Saul? Who was he? (Col. 4:10; Acts 12:12,25)



3. Who were Sergius Paulus and Bar-Jesus?
4. Contrast Sergius Paulus and Bar-Jesus' attitudes toward the word of God.
5. What happened to Bar-Jesus? What was significant about the form of punishment?
6. What was the next stop for Barnabas & Paul? What about for John?

7. As you break down Paul's sermon into halves, whose previous sermons do they resemble? What was the overall point of the message?
8. According to v. 38, what is the heart of the gospel message? Why did this concept not resonate with most Jews?
9. What was the response to Paul's preaching the first Sabbath? The following Sabbath?
10. Does 13:48 indicate predestination? Explain.
11. Under what conditions did Barnabas & Paul leave Antioch of Pisidia? What phrase is used?

Chapter 14 Questions:

1. Upon leaving Antioch, where did Barnabas & Paul go? What was the response to their preaching?
2. Why did they leave? Where did they go next?
3. Describe the miracle at Lystra.
4. What was the crowd's response to this miracle? What does this suggest about Barnabas & Paul?
5. How did Paul make the best of this situation? What points did Paul make that were especially appropriate for the Gentile audience?

6. Why did the Lystrans end up stoning “Hermes”? Is there a pattern developing?
7. Where did the missionaries go next? What do we know about their visit there?
8. What characterized the journey from this point on?
9. In addition to exhortation, what else did Barnabas & Paul do for the churches? What can you take from that detail?
10. How did the missionaries get back to “base” in Antioch? What was their report?



Chapter 15 Questions:

1. What was the subtle difference between the controversy that arose in Antioch and, for example, the one that arose in Antioch of Pisidia (13:44-50)?
2. What was the origin of circumcision? Why was it being linked to salvation? Do you think that the people who taught this doctrine were just sincerely mistaken?
3. Why did they have to send a delegation to Jerusalem? Who apparently was among this group? (Gal. 2:1)
4. Read Gal. 2:6-9. Was there any disagreement between Paul and the apostles and elders in Jerusalem?
5. Which techniques for establishing authority were used by the following people?
 - Peter (15:7-11)
 - Paul & Barnabas (15:12)
 - James (15:13-18)
6. Following all the debate, what action was taken?
7. What things were the Gentiles warned to abstain from? Shouldn't they as Christians have abstained from these things anyway? Why might these particular points have been emphasized?
8. What statement in the letter makes it clear that this was more than just a few men's opinion on the subject?
9. Who delivered the letter? What else did they do?
10. Defend or refute the following statement: The Jerusalem Council of Acts 15 is an approved example for today of the Lord's church having a headquarters and establishing doctrine.

11. What precipitated the dispute that arose between Paul & Barnabas? How did they resolve it? Do you think anyone was in the wrong here?

12. Read the following references to John Mark: Philemon 24, Col. 4:10-11; 2 Tim 4:11. What is Paul's attitude toward him? What do you think happened between Acts 15:39 and the time Paul wrote these letters?

Chapter 16 Questions:

1. After being so vehement about not circumcising Titus (Gal. 2:3), why might Paul have done it to Timothy? What does this show about Timothy?



2. Who apparently joined Paul and company in Troas (16:10)?

3. Why do you suppose Paul went to the riverside rather than the synagogue? What happened there?

4. Why was Paul so irritated by a girl announcing him and Silas as preachers of salvation?
5. What was the real reason the girl's masters were mad at Paul? What reason did they give the authorities?
6. Describe what happened to Paul & Silas as a result of this. How did they take it? Do you think the earthquake was providence or coincidence?
7. What was the jailer's question and Paul's answer? What do you make of Paul only mentioning belief?
8. What subsequent actions did the jailer (and his household) take regarding salvation?
9. Why were the city rulers so eager for Paul and company to leave Philippi? What do you think about Paul's handling of the situation?
10. What did they do before leaving? Who likely stayed behind?

Chapter 18 Questions

1. Look at the map on the previous page. What province was Corinth and Athens in?
2. Whom did Paul meet in Corinth, and what do we know about them?
3. How did Paul support himself early on in Corinth? What did Paul say about this in 1 Cor. 9:15-18?
4. While Paul had been in Athens and Corinth, where had Timothy been? Ref. Acts 17:14-16; 1 Thess. 3:1-2; 5-6; Acts 18:5.

5. What does Paul's statement "I am clean" mean?
6. What do you know about the reputation of Corinth? What did God tell Paul about the people of the city? (18:10) What does that tell us?
7. What welcome assurance did God give Paul about his time in Corinth? How long did he stay here? (Note: it is during Paul's stay in Corinth that he writes both Thessalonian letters.)
8. What happened when the Jews tried to frame Paul?
9. Where did Paul stop on the return trip to Antioch? What city is implied in v. 22 but not specifically named?

Thus the 2nd journey ends. After an unknown period of time, Paul decided to set off again.



10. What was the basis of Apollos' persuasion about Jesus as the Messiah?

Chapter 19 Questions

1. What was Paul trying to find out when he asked his question in v. 2?
2. What was the difference between being John's baptism and being baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus?
3. What did Paul do when the study in the synagogue deteriorated?
4. How long was Paul in Ephesus?

Note: 1 Corinthians and Galatians were written during Paul's stay in Ephesus on this journey.

5. How did the demons respond to the Jewish exorcists? Who did they know?
6. What do you make of the response of some in v. 18-19?
7. How had others responded, given the complaint that arises next?
8. With what reasoning did the clerk quiet the riotous crowd?
9. As his work in Ephesus drew to a conclusion, Paul had some future plans. What do we know from Paul's letters about the purpose of this itinerary? (1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8-9; Rom. 15:25-28)

Chapter 20 Questions

1. What did Paul do while in Macedonia before going to Corinth? Once he got to Corinth, how long did he stay there?

Note: we see Paul following the itinerary he laid out in 19:21. En route to Corinth he wrote 2 Corinthians. While in Corinth he wrote to the Romans.

2. Who was travelling with Paul as he left Corinth? Do you recognize any of these names? What protégé is absent from this listing?
3. What do we learn from the record of the worship service in v. 7-12?
4. What consistent message did the Holy Spirit indicate about Paul's trip to Jerusalem?
5. How did Paul describe his preaching in his address to the Ephesian elders?
6. What warning did Paul give to the elders?
7. Which situation is worse – external persecution or apostasy?
8. What gives us our heavenly inheritance?
9. Paul told the elders that he would not see them again, but it appears that he was back in Ephesus at some later point (1 Tim. 1:3). How can we reconcile this apparent contradiction?



Chapter 21 Questions

1. Where in Palestine did Paul and his entourage visit? How long did they spend in these visits?
2. What did the brethren warn Paul every time?
3. It is difficult to know exactly what Paul was being guided to do because at first glance some things don't appear to agree. Read 20:22-23; 21:4; and 21:10-14. From what we know of Paul's character, would he flatly disobey a directive from God? More than likely, who was trying to talk Paul out of going to Jerusalem?
4. What did James say was being reported about Paul's teaching? Is there any indication that James himself believed that report? Did Paul actually teach Jews to forsake Moses, etc.?
5. What are some examples of how our message to others has been twisted and misrepresented by media and society at large?

6. The details of what Paul did on James' advice are not entirely clear, but what was the intention of these actions? Was it wrong or hypocritical for Paul to participate in these rituals from the Mosaic Law?
7. When Paul was spotted in the temple, what other false charge was levied against him besides the one James had already mentioned? What was the origin of this charge?
8. Why was Paul not killed right then and there?
9. Whom did the Roman officer initially think Paul was?
10. What does it say about Paul that he wanted to address the people who just tried to kill him?

Chapter 22 Questions

1. Paul's address breaks down into four main sections. Give the main topic of each section.
 - a. v. 1-5
 - b. v. 6-10
 - c. v. 11-16
 - d. v. 17-21
2. What connection with Jerusalem did Paul mention when he first started speaking?
3. Who could corroborate Paul's former persecution of Christians?
4. What was Paul's own conception about when his sins were washed away? How did he learn about this?
5. What details about Paul's experience were not recorded in the original account in Acts 9?
6. Can you list the times after his conversion that Paul has been back in Jerusalem?

7. How did Paul's assessment differ from the Lord's relative to his first visit to Jerusalem after his conversion?
8. The crowd remained attentive even after the mention of Jesus but what statement threw the crowd back into a frenzy?
9. The Roman commander was preparing to beat the truth out of Paul; why didn't he follow through with it?
10. How does this show that Paul did not just accept persecution passively? Was this an attempt to bypass what the Holy Spirit had told him?

Chapter 23 Questions

1. Claudius Lysias called the meeting but who was the judge and jury?
2. Do you have any thoughts on why the high priest found Paul's statement so objectionable? Do you have any thoughts on how Paul could be unaware who the high priest was?
3. How did Paul almost immediately get the court to lose order? What did this show Lysias about the objectivity of the Sanhedrin and their ability to handle Paul's case?
4. What exhortation did Jesus give to Paul? What could possibly be cheerful about the coming years in chains and incarceration?
5. What charade was proposed to create an opportunity to kill Paul?
6. Describe the providence of God in this situation.
7. What falsehood did Lysias write? Why do you think he did so?
8. How did Lysias exonerate Paul? What should he have done if Paul were innocent?

Chapter 24 Questions

1. Who was Tertullus, and why did the Jews need him?

2. What were the three basic charges that Tertullus alleged against Paul?
 - a. v. 5 (first half)

 - b. v. 5 (second half)

 - c. v. 6 (compare the wording against 21:28)

 - d. Were there any inaccuracies in Tertullus' account of the events?

3. How did Paul address the charges against him?

4. Whom did Paul say was missing from the proceedings?

5. How was Paul's statement in v. 20-21 particularly damaging to the prosecution?

6. What did Felix decide after hearing both sides? Why might he have done this?

7. What "benefits" did Paul have while in custody? How did Paul use his time?

8. Why was he in custody so long? Who eventually took Felix's place as governor?

Chapter 25 Questions

1. What did the Jews try to do when Festus visited Jerusalem? Why might the Jews have thought they could pull that off?
2. Details about the charges are sparse in v. 7 but Festus provides some details later. How did Festus characterize the accusations against Paul in v. 18-20? What happened to the charges of sedition and civil unrest that were alleged in 24:5?
3. What else do we learn from verses 11, 15, and 24 about the nature of the charges against Paul?
4. After hearing Paul's case, what was clear to Festus? (v. 25) Based on that, what should he have done with Paul? By not doing so, what dilemma did that get Festus into?
5. Festus then suggested the very thing that he refused to do a couple of weeks earlier. Why might Festus have thought he could pull that off? What was his motivation(s), according to v. 9 and 20?
6. What did it mean to appeal to Caesar? Why might Paul have thought he could pull that off? Who was the Roman emperor (Caesar) in 59 AD when this took place?
7. Paul has been denied justice by Lysias, Felix, and now Festus. But how might it have benefitted Paul that he was not released at this time?

Family ties: Herod Agrippa I, a grandson of Herod the Great, was the ruler who was struck dead in Acts 12. Three of Agrippa's children appear in this part of Paul's life: Drusilla, Herod Agrippa II, and Berenice. Agrippa and Berenice were full siblings but as is evident in Acts 26 they really liked each other a lot, too much actually.

Chapter 26 Questions

1. What points was Paul making in rehearsing his background?
2. How did Paul describe his hope in v. 6-7?
3. What details do we learn about the events on the road to Damascus that were not found in the original account or even in chapter 22? Was Paul changing his story?
4. How did Paul affirm that Christianity was not a “new religion” (and thus outlawed by Roman authority)?
5. What was Festus’ response to Paul’s speech? What does this say about him?
6. What do you make of Agrippa’s response – sincere or cynical?
7. What did Agrippa conclude after Paul finished?

Chapter 27-28 Questions

1. Paul started off as just a prisoner on this ship but by the end he was the focal point. Note the things that he did to earn that respect.
 - a. tried to save the ship by _____ (27:9-11, 21)
 - b. effectively saved everyone by means of _____ (27:23-25)
 - c. saved the ship through his keen _____ (27:31)
 - d. _____ everyone on board (27:33-34)
 - e. led by _____ (27:35-36)
 - f. because of Paul's _____ the centurion was determined to deliver everyone (27:42-43)
2. What was the primary obstacle (natural) they faced in getting to Rome? What were some other (human) obstacles?
3. Although Paul and other prisoners were being transported on this ship, what was its main cargo? (27:37-38) How many people suffered the ordeal we read about in these chapters?
4. The “fast” mentioned in 27:9 is generally thought to be the Day of Atonement. (Lev. 16:29; 23:27) What time of year was that?



5. What critical decision was made at Fair Havens? Why did they decide to do this?
6. What were some of the steps the crew took to keep the ship from sinking? (27:17-19)
7. What assurance did God give Paul just when morale was lowest? So why did Paul do what he did in 27:30-32?

“The account of Paul’s voyage to Rome is like no other story in all the Bible. In it the reader’s attention is directed, not to spiritual truths and acts of devotion, but rather to such mundane things as ships and seas, winds and waves, islands, towns, and harbors. Altogether Luke has given a description of first century ships and seamanship surpassing anything else in extant Greek and Roman literature. A fascinating story of adventure, it stands also as a descriptive masterpiece. Its nautical descriptions are authentic to the last detail” (Reese, p. 890).

8. Where did the ship run aground, and where is that? How was Paul’s life spared at this point?
9. What miracles did Paul perform on Malta? Why did he not calm the sea?
10. At what port did they finally disembark and begin to travel by land?
11. Whom did Paul meet on the way to Rome? What about when he got there?
12. How did the Roman Jews take Paul’s message? What was Paul’s rebuttal?
13. As Acts closes, what was Paul’s status?

Note: During Paul’s two years of imprisonment in Rome, he wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon. Though his physical freedom has been taken away, he remained hopeful that the Lord will use his life and influence to further the kingdom – by imprisonment, life or even death. This is not the trip to Rome envisioned by Paul, but God’s ways do not always coincide with man’s ways. During his incarceration kings, governors, centurions, and even the Emperor (we presume) heard the gospel. Lives were saved from shipwreck; the gospel came to Malta; epistles were written which still benefit God’s people today. God’s power combined with our submission can make great things happen out of the worst of situations. (Jim Jonas)