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John's title for Chapter 28: The last *published* Chapter in Acts.

Introduction – The “Acts of the Apostles” is continuous to this day. It does not end at Chapter 28.

- “The Lord Jesus Christ at Work by the Holy Spirit through the Apostles.” (J. Vernon McGee)
 - Key verse of the Book of Acts: (Chapter 1, Verse 9)
 - Jesus said, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (NIV)
 - The Book of Acts describes how the early apostles, *through* the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - In Jerusalem (roughly the first 7 chapters);
 - In Samaria (mentioned in Chapters 8-9);
 - The ends of the earth (Chapters 10-28)...continuing to this day.
 - The Acts of the Apostles doesn't “end” until Jesus comes back for the church.
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A Summary of Chapter 28:

- Chapters 27 and Chapters 28 are Paul's travel's from Caesarea (Israel) to Rome (Italy).
- Chapter 28 *begins* with a shipwreck at Malta.
- Verses 1-10: Paul/companions/crew on the island of Malta.
- Verses 1-6 describe Paul miraculously surviving a poisonous snakebite.
- That miracle is used as a witnessing opportunity to the natives.
- Verses 7-10 focus on Paul healing the Malta Governor's father who was sick.
- Verses 11-16: Paul's voyage to Rome. It is mostly “travel-journal” comments.
- Verses 17-31: Paul in Rome.
- Verses 17-28: Paul witnesses to (non-Christian) Jews in Rome; some believe, some don't.
- Verses 30-31: Epilogue comment: Paul spent “two years in Rome”. The book ends here.



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Verse 1: The Island of Malta

- Malta is 58 miles south of Sicily. It is 18 miles wide long and 8 miles wide.
- It has been a Roman colony since 218 BC.
- The word "Malta" means, "refuge".

Verse 4: The natives of Malta see Paul-the-prisoner bitten by a poisonous snake.

- They assume Paul must have done something to "deserve" that snakebite.
- This is the mystic view of "fatalism" or "karma" today. It is the belief of Hinduism.
- It is the belief that you "can't get away with something". The god(s) will somehow punish you and you won't get away with the crime. Thus the term "bad-karma".
- Christian response: Some people *do* get away with it. This is *a* reason hell exists.
- "When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny. (Psalm 73:16-17 NIV)

Verse 5: Paul miraculously survives the snakebite. Now the natives think he must be a "god".

- Jesus said, "And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." (Mark 16:17-18 NIV)
- Nothing is said about Paul teaching Jesus to the natives. That is *implied*, but not stated.
- A similar miracle where they thought Paul was a god occurred in Chapter 14:
- (Paul speaking) "Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worth-less things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. (Acts 14:15 NIV)

Verses 7-10: Paul miraculously heals the Governor's (Publius) father.

- In Verse 7 Paul *heals* Publius's father.
- In Verse 9 the sick were *cured*.
- Luke was a doctor. Luke used his God-given talents to *cure* people.
- This verse supports hospital missionary work.

Verses 11-16: Paul's voyage to Rome. It is mostly "travel-journal" comments.

- Rhegium is a harbor on the "toe" of Italy. It is still another 130 miles to Rome.
- Christians are already in Italy! How did they get there?
- On Pentecost, roughly 30 years earlier, there were "visitors from Rome". (See Acts 2:10)
- "Forum of Appius", a Roman road "rest-stop", is 40 miles to Rome.
- "Three Taverns", another Roman road "rest-stop", is 30 miles to Rome.
- Some Christians traveled farther to visit Paul than others...were they more committed?
- With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! (Psalm 119:10 NKJV)

Verses 17-31: Paul in Rome. Paul started preaching to the local Jews about Jesus.

- Jesus himself used this technique to some disciples after his resurrection: "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he (Jesus) explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." (Luke 24:27 NIV)

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Verses 26-27: To the Jews who didn't believe Paul, Paul quoted a prophecy from Isaiah 6:9-10.

- This passage is quoted 4 times in the Gospels: Matt. 13:13-15; Luke 8:10; Mark 4:12 & John 12:40.
- To paraphrase what Isaiah said, "You (Jews-corporately) reject the Gospel over and over, and now I God, will make it *impossible* for you to comprehend it. Because I (God) love you and all mankind, I am giving you over to your free-will desires. I (God) am doing this to show to others and yourself the errors of your ways. The truth of Jesus is so obvious that it is *necessary* that I control your thoughts so that it will become *impossible* for you to accept Jesus."
- This is the concept behind "blasphemy of the Holy Spirit". (Matthew 12:31, et.al.)
- It is the only unforgivable sin in the Bible.
- It is the idea of continually rejecting the Gospel message. Eventually, you can't accept it.

Verses 28: Paul tells the non-believing Jews "God has now turned to the Gentiles".

- "And did they understand (that God would give his salvation to others if they refused to take it)? Yes, for even back in the time of Moses, God had said that he would make his people jealous and try to wake them up by giving his salvation to the foolish heathen nations."
(Romans 10:19 The Living Bible)

Verse 28-30: Paul spent the next 2 years in Rome under "house arrest" waiting for trial.

- Paul wrote from Rome (1-2 years after arriving). "All the saints (in Rome) greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household." (Philippians 4:22 NKJV)
- This was written from a Roman jail. It shows the affects of Paul's witness.

Verse 31: In the original language, the last words are (translated) boldness and without hindrance.

- This is how the Book of Acts ends, Paul in Rome preaching boldly and without hindrance.
- You and I are to continue to write the Book of Acts boldly and without hindrance.

Epilogue: How do *we* preach Jesus with boldness and without hindrance?

- Secret #1: Working through Jesus: Jesus said, "For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."
(Matthew 11:30 NIV)
 - What Jesus is saying is the "burden" of Christianity is light.
- Secret #2: Trusting in the power of God: "And I (Jesus) say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
(Matthew 16:18 KJV)
 - God provides us with all the power we need to be his witness, and all the power of hell can not stop it.
- Secret #3: Our attitude: "Jesus said "However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:20 NIV)

"Summary-Biography Of My Sources"
(A complete biography on the GSPC web site.)

"If I have seen further, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants." (Isaac Newton)

First and foremost, the greatest commentary on the Bible is the Bible itself. I mostly quote The New International Version (NIV), The New King James Version (NKJV), The King James Version (KJV) and the paraphrased-translations: The Living Bible (TLB) and the Good News Bible (GNB)

Teachers/scholars/books in alphabetical order: F.F. Bruce, Jon Curson, David Guzik, The Expositor's Bible Encyclopedia®, Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie, Dr. J. Vernon McGee, Chuck Missler, Ray Steadman, David H. Stern, The Life Application Bible®, (Summary) Commentary by Warren Wiersbe, others were quoted from in these sources.