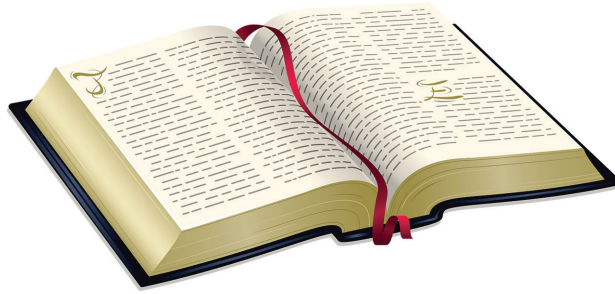


toServe Bible Study - WHS-13



Acts - Lesson 7 of 7

Answer Sheet for English Standard Version (ESV)

Chapters 25 - 28

ACTS 25 - PAUL'S TRIAL BEFORE FESTUS

Festus, wanting to do the Jews a favor (Acts 25:9a). Though he was a good man, Festus also understood that it was important for him to have and keep a good relationship with the Jewish people of his province.

Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and there be judged before me concerning these things? (Acts 25:9b) Festus found it difficult to decide the case. Paul's standing as a Roman citizen apparently prevented Festus from commanding the trial to be moved to Jerusalem, so he asked Paul about this.

So Paul said, "I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged...I appeal to Caesar." (Acts 25:10-11) Paul saw through the plot against his life. Perhaps it was through supernatural knowledge, or perhaps through God-given common sense and deduction. Therefore, he demanded to stand trial before Caesar.

Paul's appeal made sense. He was convinced that the evidence was on his side and that he could win in a fair trial. He also had reason to wonder if his current judge (Festus) was sympathetic to his accusers, the religious leaders among the Jews.

It was the right of every Roman citizen to have his case heard by Caesar himself, after initial trials and appeals failed to reach a satisfactory decision. This was in effect an appeal to the supreme court of the Roman Empire.

Paul appealed specifically to Caesar Nero, who was later a notorious enemy of Christians. But the first five years of his reign, under the influence of good men around him, Nero was regarded as a wise and just ruler. Paul had no reason at this time to believe that Nero would be anti-Christian.

Chapter 25

Please read all of Acts Chapter 25 ☐ Check

1. (vs. 25:2-3) What was the reason for the chief priests and Jewish leaders to have Paul moved from Caesarea to Jerusalem ?
they were planning an ambush to kill him on the way.

2. (v. 25:7) What was the outcome of the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem that had serious charges/complaints against Paul ?
bringing many and serious charges against him that they could not prove.

3. (v. 25:8) When Paul made his defense/answered for himself, what three things does Paul mention that he had not done wrong against?
 1. the law of Jews

 2. the temple

 3. Caesar

4. (v. 25:9) Why did Festus ask Paul “Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and there be judged before me concerning these things”?
Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor

5. (v. 25:12) Paul, knowing he had done nothing wrong, made a statement to Festus. After that statement what was the only answer that Festus could have made?
“To Caesar you have appealed; to Caesar you shall go.”

6. (vs. 25:15-16) Festus laid Paul’s case before king Agrippa, saying: “There is a certain man left a prisoner by Felix, about whom the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me. How did Festus tell the king how he handled it with the Jewish leaders?
it was not the custom of the Romans to give up anyone before the accused met the accusers face to face and had opportunity to make his defense concerning the charge laid against him.

7. (v. 25: 24) When King Agrippa and Bernice came to visit Festus, he discussed Paul's case with them. What did the Jewish chief priest and elders want to happen to Paul ?

shouting that he ought not to live any longer.

8. (vs. 25:26-27) Festus is in a dilemma about Paul. The Jewish leaders really didn't have any evidence on the charges they brought up about Paul, and Paul had made a plea to be judged by Caesar in Rome. What does it seem he is wanting King Agrippa to help him with before he sends Paul to Rome?

For it seems unreasonable, in sending a prisoner, not to indicate the charges against him."

Notes: Festus simply could not send Paul to Caesar with a letter that said: "I really don't know what this man is accused of and he is probably innocent of any wrongdoing, but I thought I should send him to you anyway." That was no way to be popular with Caesar.



Acts 25 - Paul's Trial before Festus

Chapter 26

Please read all of Acts Chapter 26 ☐ Check

1. (vs. 26:2-3) When Paul was permitted to speak, what did he feel fortunate/happy about?

I consider myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am going to make my defense today against all the accusations of the Jews,

Why did he especially feel fortunate/happy to be speaking to King Agrippa?

because he was familiar with all the customs and controversies of the Jews.

2. (v. 26:5) Paul starts out by saying that the Jewish leaders know that he lived according to the strictest sect of our religion. What was that sect? Pharisee

3. (v. 26:6) What did Paul reveal why he was on trial/judged?

because of his hope in the promise made by God to our fathers,

4. (v. 26:8) What question does Paul ask:

why would they think it would be incredible what God could do?

that God raises the dead?

5. (vs. 26:9-10) What all did Paul claim he did because he was convinced to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth?

He not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death he cast his vote against them.

6. (v. 26:11) What exceeding steps did Paul say he did to try and punish these followers of Jesus ?

he persecuted them even to foreign cities.

7. (vs. 26:16-18) In this testimony that Paul gives to King Agrippa, Jesus reveals to him who he is to witness to, open their eye to, from the power of, and forgiveness of.

Please name these?

Witness to: the Gentiles

Open their eyes to: may turn from darkness to light

From the power of: Satan to God

Forgiveness of: sins

8. (v. 26:24) What point did Festus make that he said caused Paul to be out of his mind/ beside yourself/insane?

Paul's great learning is driving you out of your mind.

9. (v. 26:29) What was the prayer that Paul had for all who were listening to him?

"Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains."

10. (vs. 26:30-31) At the end of Paul's speech the king rose, and with him the governor and Bernice and those sitting with him. And when they had gone aside, they talked among themselves, saying what?

"This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment."

11. (v. 26:32) According to King Agrippa and Festus why could Paul not be set free at this time?

if he had not appealed to Caesar.

12. This chapter sounds like Paul pleading his case for freedom, but let's examine 2 verses.
Read Acts 23:11 No matter what the outcome was, God had already assured Paul that he was going to Rome. *Now:*

Read Acts 26:28. In your own words, what do you think Paul was actually doing here?

Chapter 27

Please read all of Acts Chapter 27 ☐ Check

Acts 27 is an account of a famous sea voyage. Paul, Luke, and Aristarchus travel from Caesarea Maritima on their way to Rome. False charges and two years of imprisonment in Caesarea led Paul to appeal his case to a higher Roman court, and he is now on his way to that court. The chapter can be divided into seven paragraphs, alternating between descriptions of the sea voyage and Paul trying to keep everyone alive during a horrific storm. Eventually, they shipwreck on Malta. The ship and cargo are a complete loss, but no one dies.

Acts 27:33–38 places Paul at the center of the action once again. His ship has been storm-tossed and lost for two weeks. The 276 passengers have finally reached land, but don't know what rocks or reefs are between them and safety. The centurion has prevented the crew's escape attempt (Acts 27:27–32). Now, Paul brings everyone together to do something they haven't been able to in fourteen days: eat. They share bread and jettison the remaining cargo. Once dawn breaks, the crew sails the ship closer to land, but the ship gets hung up on a reef. Eventually, however, everyone makes it to shore (Acts 27:39–44).



1. (v. 27:2) Once again, here in verse 2 we see the word “we”. Who is this referring to?
Luke, the writer of Acts.
2. (vs. 27:2-3) Who was with Paul and Luke and where was he from, when they set sail for Rome ? Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica.
3. (v. 27:3) The next day when they landed in Sidon, what did the centurion/captain Julius allow Paul to do?
gave him leave to go to his friends and be cared for.
4. (v. 27:14) What was the first sign of a bad storm that blew the ship off course?
a tempestuous wind, called the northeaster, struck down from the land.
5. (vs. 27:18-19) What did they do next to try and lighten the ship?
on the third day they threw the ship's tackle overboard
6. (vs. 27:22-27) In your own words write out how we know Paul was able to reassure all the men on board that no one on the ship would lose their life in this storm.
7. (vs. 27:43-44) Why did the centurion/commanding officer overturn the soldier’s plan to kill the prisoners ? wishing to save Paul,
What was his alternate plan?
He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land,
and the rest on planks or on pieces of the ship.

Chapter 28

Please read all of Acts Chapter 28 ☐ Check

1. (v. 28:1) What was the name of the island that Paul had shipwrecked on ? Malta
What bigger island was it next to? (hint: look at the map) Sicily
2. (v. 28:3) What happened to Paul as he was gathering brushwood/sticks ?
a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand.

3. (vs. 28:4) What did the people from the island think was going to happen to Paul after the viper/snake bit him ?
They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead.

What did happen to Paul after the viper/snake bite?
But when they had waited a long time and saw no misfortune come to him,

4. (v. 28:6) What did the islanders think of Paul when nothing happened to him after the viper/snake bite?
saw no misfortune come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

5. (vs. 28:7-9) There was an estate of the leading citizen/chief officer of the island, whose name was Publius, who received them and entertained them courteously for three days. And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever. What became of the father?
Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him, healed him.

6. (v. 28:11) How long did Paul stay on the island of Malta ? three months

Paul Finally makes it to Rome

Paul has wanted to go to Rome for years (Romans 1:11). Jesus has promised he will get there (Acts 23:11), a promise Paul embraced in full faith. What he didn't know was the path would include two years under house arrest in Caesarea Maritima (Acts 24:27), a terrible winter storm on a ship in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, and a shipwreck (Acts 27). Fortunately, the ship sank just off the coast of Malta, where kind locals became more than generous after Paul provided healing for their sick (Acts 28:1–10).

Now, winter is ending and ship traffic resumes, as it typically does the first week of February. Another Alexandrian ship, probably one almost identical to the ship they had lost, has moored at Malta and agreed to take them on. The "twin gods" are the Greek gods Castor and Pollux, twin sons of Jupiter/J Zeus and the divinities of sailors.

Malta is a small island directly south of Sicily. Sicily is a larger island off the "toe" of Italy's boot-like shape. The ship will travel north and skim the eastern coast of Sicily, first landing at Syracuse on the southeastern shore, and then at Rhegium on the toe of Italy, itself. From there they will sail up the western coast of Italy to Puteoli where Paul, Aristarchus, and Luke will disembark. As they walk the last few miles to Rome, they will encounter several Christ-followers who provide support and encouragement. Paul will spend two years under house arrest with the time to write and the freedom to teach anyone who will visit (Acts 28:12–31).

7. (v. 28:16) Once Paul arrived in Rome (as a prisoner) what were his living arrangements ?

Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who guarded him.

8. (v. 28:17) After only being in Rome a short time, Paul called together the Jewish leaders to explain what 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.

9. (vs. 28:18-20) A big part of the reason Paul wanted to speak to the Jewish leaders, was to make sure they knew what?

I had no charge to bring against my nation. For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you

- 10.(v. 28:20) Why does Paul say he was bound with chains?

since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain.

- 11.(vs. 28:21-22) How did the Jewish leaders respond to Paul after he made the statement in verses 28:17-20 ?

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

- 12.(vs. 28:17-23) In your own words, what was Paul's reason to speak to this Jewish audience?

- 13.(v. 28:23) What manner did Paul use to try and persuade the Jewish leaders about who Jesus was?

trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.

- 14.(v. 28:28) After Paul quoted Isaiah 6:9-10 (most of his audience knew where he was quoting from) what was he leading up to?

that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.

15. (v. 28:31) Two big points are made about Paul's style of witnessing.

What are these points?

1. with all boldness
2. without hindrance

At the end of Peter's first sermon in Acts 2:14-41,
Luke records one of the most profound verses in all of scripture.

Acts 2:38

Peter said to them, "Repent,
and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ
for the forgiveness of your sins;
and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Steps to Salvation:

1. Hearing the Word. **Romans 10:17**
2. Admit our sins. **1 John 1:9**
3. Repentance. **Acts 3:19**
4. Accepting Christ as Lord and Savior. **Romans 10:9**
5. Indwelling of the Holy Spirit. **John 14:17**

A verse to underline and memorize

*the Spirit of truth,
whom the world cannot receive,
because it neither sees Him nor knows Him;
but you know Him,
for He dwells with you and will be in you.
John 14:17*

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