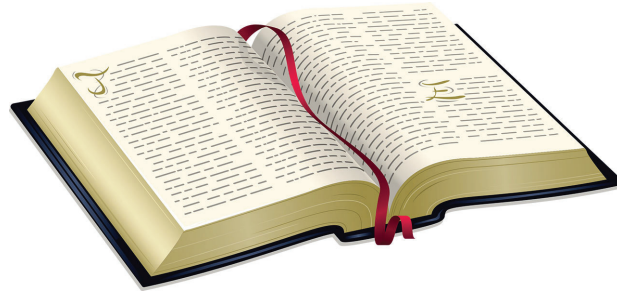


toServe Bible Study - WHS-13



Acts - Lesson 7 of 7

Answer Sheet for New Living Translation (NLT) 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 ?

planning to ambush and 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 ?

Jewish leaders gathered around and made many serious accusations they couldn't 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 Jewish laws

2. the Temple

3. the Roman government

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, wanting to please the Jews

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?

"Very well! You have appealed to Caesar, and to Caesar you will 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?

that Roman law does not convict people without a trial.

They must be given an opportunity to confront their accusers and defend themselves.

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

this is the man whose death is demanded by all the Jews, both here and in Jerusalem.

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 makes no sense to send a prisoner to the emperor without specifying 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 am fortunate, King Agrippa, that you are the one hearing my defense today against all these accusations made by the Jewish leaders,

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

you are an expert on all Jewish customs and controversies

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? Pharisees

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

because of my hope in the fulfillment of God's promise made to our ancestors.

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

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

that God can raise 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?

I caused many believers[b] there to be sent to prison.

And I cast my vote against them when they were condemned to death.

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

I even chased them down in 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: so they 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?
Too much study has made you crazy!
9. (v. 26:29) What was the prayer that Paul had for all who were listening to him?
I pray to God that both you and everyone here in this audience might become the same as I am.
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 hasn't done anything 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 hadn't 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?
go ashore to visit with friends so they could provide for his needs.
4. (v. 27:14) What was the first sign of a bad storm that blew the ship off course?
a wind of typhoon strength (called a “northeaster”)
5. (vs. 27:18-19) What did they do next to try and lighten the ship?
The following day they even took some of the ship’s gear and threw it 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 ? wanted to spare Paul
What was his alternate plan?
He ordered all who could swim to jump overboard first and make for land. The others held on to planks or debris from the broken 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 poisonous snake, driven out by the heat, bit him on the 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 ?
The people waited for him to swell up or suddenly drop dead.
What did happen to Paul after the viper/snake bite?
when they had waited a long time and saw that he wasn't harmed, they changed their minds
4. (v. 28:6) What did the islanders think of Paul when nothing happened to him after the viper/snake bite?
they changed their minds and decided 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 went in and prayed for him, and laying his hands on him, he 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 permitted to have his own private lodging, though he was guarded by a soldier.

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

Brothers, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Roman government, even though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our ancestors.

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 desire to press charges against my own people.

I asked you to come here today so we could get acquainted and so I could explain to you

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

because I believe that the hope of Israel—the Messiah—has already come.

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

“We have had no letters from Judea or reports against you from anyone who has come here.

But we want to hear what you believe,

for the only thing we know about this movement is that it is denounced everywhere.”

- 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?

persuade them about Jesus from the Scriptures.

Using the law of Moses and the books of 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?

salvation from God has also been offered to the Gentiles,

and they will accept it.

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

What are these points?

1. teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. no one tried to stop him.

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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