

“The Continued Acts of Jesus”

Acts 28:11-31

June 21, 2026

The Book of Acts has been building up to this moment of Paul going to Rome. We expect this grand climactic moment once arriving in Rome, but that just does not happen.

Acts 28:30-31

[30] Paul stayed two whole years in his own rented house. And he welcomed all who visited him, [31] proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

The ending of Acts is intentional—meant to draw us into the story. Though the Book of Acts ends, the gospel does not.

Acts 28:11-15

[11] After three months we set sail in an Alexandrian ship that had wintered at the island, with the Twin Gods as its figurehead. [12] Putting in at Syracuse, we stayed three days. [13] From there, after making a circuit along the coast, we reached Rhegium. After one day a south wind sprang up, and the second day we came to Puteoli. [14] There we found brothers and sisters and were invited to stay a week with them. And so we came to Rome. [15] Now the brothers and sisters from there had heard the news about us and had come to meet us as far as the Forum of Appius and the Three Taverns. When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.

Paul and this crew did not get to their destination because of the “saviors of the sea,” they got there because of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ.

The gospel has already made it to Rome before Paul is even there.

Paul “thanked God and took courage” upon meeting with his fellow Christians.

Acts 28:16-28

[16] When we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself with the soldier who guarded him. [17] After three days he called together the leaders of the Jews. When they had gathered he said to them, “Brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our ancestors, I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. [18] After they examined me, they wanted to release me, since there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. [19] Because the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar; even though I had no charge to bring against my people. [20] For this reason I’ve asked to see you and speak to you. In fact, it is for the hope of Israel that I’m wearing this chain.”

[21] Then they said to him, “We haven’t received any letters about you from Judea. None of the brothers has come and reported or spoken anything evil about you. [22] But we want to hear what your views are, since we know that people everywhere are speaking against this sect.”

[23] After arranging a day with him, many came to him at his lodging. From dawn to dusk he expounded and testified about the kingdom of God. He tried to persuade them

about Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets. [24] Some were persuaded by what he said, but others did not believe. [25] Disagreeing among themselves, they began to leave after Paul made one statement: “The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your ancestors through the prophet Isaiah [26] when he said,

‘Go to these people and say: You will always be listening, but never understanding; and you will always be looking, but never perceiving. [27] For the hearts of these people have grown callous, their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; otherwise they might see with their eyes and hear with their ears, understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.’

[28] Therefore, let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.”

Paul calls the leaders of the Jew to come to him to hear his case, and they are willing to listen. Paul appeals to the Law of Moses and the Prophets to persuade them about Jesus.

The thirteen sermons recorded in Acts

1. Acts 2:14-40 - Peter's Pentecost
2. Acts 3:12-26 - Peter's Sermon at the Temple
3. Acts 4:5-12 - Peter's Sermon to the Sanhedrin
4. Acts 5:29-32 - Peter and the Apostles before the Sanhedrin
5. Acts 7:1-53 - Stephen's Defense before the Sanhedrin
6. Acts 10:34-43 - Peter's Sermon to Cornelius and the Gentiles
7. Acts 13:16-41 - Paul's Sermon in Pisidian Antioch
8. Acts 14:15-17 - Paul's Sermon in Lystra
9. Acts 17:22-31 - Paul's Sermon at the Areopagus
10. Acts 20:17-35 - Paul's Farewell to the Ephesian Elders
11. Acts 22:1-21 - Paul's Defense before the Jerusalem Mob
12. Acts 24:10-21 - Paul's Defense before Felix
13. Acts 26:1-29 - Paul's Defense before King Agrippa

Every sermon in Acts proclaims Jesus as the fulfillment of prophecy, crucified and raised, offering salvation to all who repent and believe.

Mixed responses to the gospel in the passage, and Paul quotes Isaiah 6 to describe those who turn away from the gospel.

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Paul is not the most important character in Acts, God is. Arrival in Rome is not the pinnacle of the story. We need to be reminded that in all of Acts the gospel goes forth and continues to go forth—in their lives, and it continues in our lives today.

Nothing can stand in the way of Jesus and the goodness of His salvation going forth—*without hindrance*. Will you be a part of the story going forth?

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. What did God say to you through His Scripture during our Sunday gathering?
2. Throughout Acts, what evidence do we see that God is sovereignly directing events, even through hardship and opposition?
3. Why is it significant that the gospel had already reached Rome before Paul arrived?
4. In Acts 28:14–15, Paul is encouraged by fellow believers upon arriving near Rome. Are you more likely to be someone who encourages others or someone who struggles to ask for encouragement? Why?
5. What do we learn from the different responses to Paul's preaching in verses 24–28? What is at the core of the sermons we see in Acts?
6. If you were reading the book of Acts for the first time, what kind of ending might you expect? What surprises you about the way it actually ends?
7. Where has God placed you right now to proclaim the good news of Jesus—at home, at work, in your neighborhood, or elsewhere? Where in the world does Jesus want me to go next?
8. How does the phrase "with all boldness and without hindrance" (Acts 28:31) summarize the message of the entire book? What would it look like for you to live and speak "with all boldness" this week?
9. How can your Life Group help you apply this passage to your life this week? How can they pray for you this week?