



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Acts 27-28
- Romans 1:8-15
- I Corinthians 2

STAY IN THE BOAT!

- I'm Going Home Rome!
- What Dreams Are Made Of
- The Two Gospels

[Final musings of Paul] Too much information to integrate into a single thought. Too many inflection points and interconnections to assimilate. It all led to this one moment when all that God's been doing congealed in an instant, into one single reason: "For the hope..." Picture in your mind how it might be portrayed in a movie. It's the culmination of the entire narrative, the climax of the story that both reveals the final missing piece and settles every issue at once. Every question is answered when the main character rewinds every memory in ten seconds, reliving in his mind all the events you just spent two hours watching. It takes place in a single moment that amalgamates all the pieces, and the confusing twisted story of seemingly unrelated scenes suddenly all makes sense.

I wish I could make that happen for you. Maybe I can. God created man in His own image and then Adam sinned in the garden

and creation went into a tailspin. It looked really bad and seemed to ruin everything. Man had departed from God and death was introduced. And somehow that horrible event must end with a better outcome than had Adam never tasted the fruit. The long twisted history of mankind ensues: murder and selfish desires; intrigue and greed and rebellion; prophets and judges and kings; the birth of a child called to save us all; rejected and crucified by more Adam-like men, as if nothing will ever change; those who believe and those who torture those who believe; and somehow the purple thread that weaves throughout the entire story, and holds it all together, never breaks. Zoom in and you can see the writing woven into its fibers. It says "Hope!"

And what is most fascinating of all is that I had this burning desire in my heart to somehow get to Rome, but I could never have imagined how God would make it happen. It's another of those purple threads. First there was the desire; then a prophecy ensuring I would one day be here; in between I was stoned and persecuted and ridiculed and rejected; then one day I was rescued by a Roman soldier as I was being beaten by Jews in Jerusalem; he sent me to testify in the Roman courts and I witnessed before governors, a king, and many prominent people; then I was asked if I'd prefer to return to the Jewish courts for a final ruling and I appealed my case to Caesar instead, right here in Rome. But it gets better. On my way

here I almost died in a shipwreck in a storm, except God spoke to me again and reminded me of His promise that I must testify in Rome, so all I had to do was trust Him and stay in the boat. It's what Jonah would have done had he obeyed the Lord in the storm. It's what Peter would have done had he truly understood the Lord in the storm. And it's what you need to do. Stay in the boat in the storm and be saved!

All that has happened has brought me here, to this very moment, "For the hope!" I was born a Roman citizen; I was trained in the law by the most prestigious scholar; I became the worst persecutor of all; I had the most dramatic conversion; my journey was filled with fruit and torture; and all along I was desperate for this one thing. I would do anything to get to Rome just to tell you this... "For this reason, for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain." You see, it all looked lost when Adam ate from the forbidden tree and he introduced death into creation. But that Adam could die was there all along and we know this because he did. What I have to tell you now is that Adam's sin can work to your advantage. That is why I am in chains. Better than Adam had, who always faced the risk of dying, there is a greater promise, a promise of life everlasting without any risk. You don't have to die; you can live forever. All you need is Y'shua, the long awaited hope. All you need to do when the storm is raging is to stay in the boat!

PROPHETIC SEED:

“Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.’

Therefore take heart, men, for **I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.”** Acts 27:24-25 NKJV

“Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, **“Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.”**” Acts 27:31 NKJV

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“For this reason therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because **for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.”**” Acts 28:20 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

Introduction

Last week in [Influence the Influencers](#) Paul went on trial in Caesarea. The High Priest used an eloquent public speaker to present the case against Paul. He turned out to be a real suck up to the Roman governor, acting like they are living the dream under such excellent Roman leadership. He presented what turns out to be a bunch of dribble—hearsay without a stitch of evidence. He even lied by conveniently leaving out certain important facts. The

Jewish hypocrites, standing by, perjured themselves by agreeing with this sweet talking fraudster.

Paul then had the opportunity to present his defense. He was happy to answer to the ridiculous accusations. They could not prove a single word of what they accused him. Paul still believes and adheres to everything written in the Law and the Prophets. He told governor Felix exactly what happened in Jerusalem that led to his arrest. Felix adjourned to make a decision, but he never did. He did call Paul back in to meet his Jewish wife, who wished to hear about Christ, but Paul's message was so convicting that Felix freaked out and just put him back in lock down. Felix did call him into meetings to chat now and again, but only did so in hope that Paul would get the hint that he was open for a bribe, but Paul never bit! Two years went by and Felix left office.

Porcius Festus succeeded him and Paul was still in custody. The new governor visited Jerusalem and the religious leaders quickly told Festus about Paul and moved to have him brought back to Jerusalem, but only so they could ambush his convoy along the way and kill him. Festus would have none of it. He ordered Paul to stay in Caesarea, and said that when he arrived, those who wanted him on trial again could come bring their case against him in Caesarea and that was when he would judge Paul's innocence or guilt. He heard the case and clearly there is no wrongdoing

according to Rome. He asked Paul if he was willing to go back to Jerusalem to stand trial in the Jewish court and Paul was adamant with his response... In what may be the most scathing indictment of the corrupt Jewish leadership, Paul said he would rather go to Rome and sit before a pagan king to be judged, than go back to Jerusalem to sit before the corrupt Sanhedrin (the lying Jewish council)! That was when Paul made a formal request to go before Caesar for a final determination, and Festus concluded that it was to Caesar he would go!

However, before Festus sent him to Rome, King Agrippa and his wife Bernice arrived in Caesarea, probably to acknowledge Festus' appointment to replace Felix, who was the previous long-standing governor. Festus then trotted Paul out in front of the regional king, in addition to many other prominent leaders. Festus already knew Paul was innocent, but he needed something to tell Caesar about Paul's charges when he sent him to Rome. So, he explained the situation to Agrippa, in hope he would hear the case and help him formulate a letter explaining the indictment, so he could send it to Caesar with Paul. Agrippa agreed to hear what Paul had to say.

Paul appeared before the king and all the most important people in the city. Paul happily began his defense to the charges against him, starting with his younger days. King Agrippa (Herod

Agrippa II) officially gave Paul the floor to speak for himself. Paul laid out his perfect defense in lavish detail, from his early life, to his conversion on the road to Damascus, to his post-conversion life of ministry. His testimony was so compelling that Agrippa was nearly converted to Christianity in the process, but ultimately retreated to a private space to discuss a verdict. His conclusion: *“This man is doing nothing deserving of death or chains.”* Agrippa told Festus they could have simply freed Paul at that moment had he not appealed to Caesar. But because he had, off to Rome he must go!

This week Paul finally travels to Rome. The beginning of the trip is uncomplicated, the high point is probably that we are told that Julius, the centurion of the Augustan Regiment in charge of Paul’s transport, takes a liking to Paul. This will literally save Paul’s life later in the trip.

Things take a turn after their arrival on Crete. Winter is approaching and Paul gets a sense from God that they must stay put for the winter because if they continue there will be a tragedy. Lives, cargo and the ship itself will be lost. Unfortunately, Julius is more influenced by the majority, who say to carry on, and soon after they depart the ship is caught in a massive storm that goes on for days. The sailors try to secure the boat by bolstering the hull with the ropes used to lower the lifeboat. The storm continues and the men are shrouded in darkness, as the sun cannot penetrate the

clouds. The men become hopeless, but Paul assures them. "No one will die if you listen to me. I am on this ship because I MUST appear in Rome, and all those with me will survive too." Fourteen days into the nightmarish storm, the men sense they are close to land and they think their best chance of survival is to escape in the lifeboat. Paul warns them that they will die if they leave the ship at that moment. But, if they stay in the boat they will live; not a hair on their heads will be harmed. Somehow they trust Paul, who then convinces them to take some food to strengthen themselves.

The boat eventually gets stuck on a sandbar close to the island of Malta and as the boat is being battered to pieces, the soldiers decide to execute all the prisoners, and this is when Julius' affection for Paul saves his life. He does not want Paul harmed, so the commander instructs the men to loose the prisoners and for all men to jump overboard and get to shore. Every man survives just as Paul promised.

On Malta they are treated kindly by the natives. They build a fire to warm the wearied men and Paul is bitten by a viper while helping to collect firewood. At first the natives believe this must be the deserved punishment for a bad man, until Paul shakes off the serpent into the fire and suffers no ill-effects. That's when the natives think he must be a god! Paul then finds himself in the presence of Publius, the most important man on the island, who hosts them for

three days. Paul heals the man's dying father and this causes all the other sick people on Malta to come to Paul. He heals them all. The grateful citizens of Malta provide everything they need for the remainder of their journey to Rome.

Paul and company stay just over three months on Malta and are able to leave on an Alexandrian ship, which had wintered there for safe-harbor. They eventually arrive in Rome and Julius delivers Paul to Caesar's captain of the guard. He is not kept in nasty prison, but instead finds favor and lives alone in a small dwelling under watch of the palace guard.

Paul then gets to live his dream, a chance to minister in Rome. He meets with the local Jewish leaders to bring them up to speed about why he is in Rome. He summarizes his entire testimony and journey and more importantly presents them with the hope that is in him. The reason I am in chains is because I have been preaching about Y'shua, the one our people have been hoping for over many generations. Paul stays incarcerated for two years, but he is under house arrest and not in a prison cell. He is permitted to receive visitors as he wishes, who can provide for his needs, but more importantly those whom he can teach about salvation in Y'shua and the kingdom of God.

Acts 27

The Voyage to Rome Begins (Acts 27:1-8)

1. A decision is made to start their way to Rome...
 - (a) The Early Part of the Journey to Rome from Caesarea
 - 1) Paul and other prisoners leave for Italy.
 - 2) Julius, a centurion of the Augustan Regiment is in charge (he treats Paul kindly).
 - 3) Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, was with them.
 - 4) The intent is to sail close to the Asian coastline.
 - (b) Stops along the way:
 - 1) First Stop: Sidon, just up the coast from Caesarea (Paul visits friends).
 - 2) From Sidon they sail north to the east of Cyprus and then due west between Cyprus and the mainland of Cilicia and Pamphylia.
 - 3) Second Stop: Myra, a city of Lycia (Julius finds their next ship).
 - 4) Third Stop: days later in Cnidus, the western tip of a peninsula in Asia.
 - 5) Fourth Stop: south to Salmone on the eastern side of Crete.
 - 6) Fifth Stop: they sail to the south side of Crete to Fair Havens near Lasea.

Paul's Warning Ignored (Acts 27:9-12)

2. Heeding the Voices of the Majority

- (a) Paul predicts there is danger ahead, unless...
 - 1) They have been traveling for a while and it is now fall (the fast refers to Yom Kippur which normally takes place in our month of September).
 - 2) Paul has discernment about continuing their journey at that time of year.
 - 3) He feels it will end in the destruction of the ship, and loss of cargo and lives, if they don't stay in Fair Havens for the winter.
 - 4) He advises Julius of such, but the centurion was more influenced by the one steering the ship and the owner persuades Julius to carry on.
 - 5) The harbor in Fair Havens is not safe for the winter so the majority of those who are consulted overrule Paul's recommendation.
 - 6) They decide to do whatever is necessary to head further west on the south side of Crete to Phoenix.
 - 7) That would give them safe harbor for the winter and a clear opening toward Italy after that.

Tempest-tossed (Acts 27:13-38)

3. They should have heeded Paul's advice!

- (a) Things look favorable, so let's go!
- 1) The conditions look ideal to set off from Fair Havens, so against Paul's advice they launch.
 - 2) It does not take long before they are met with a blustery northeaster headwind, blowing from the direction of the island out to sea.
 - 3) The ship was now blocked and cannot head back to shore against the wind, so they are forced to let the ship go where the wind would take her.
 - 4) They got some temporary protection from the island of Clauda, which permitted them to take the lifeboat on board.
 - 5) They then used the skiff tie downs to wrap under the boat to give it extra strength in case they struck ground.
 - 6) They were nearing Syrtis Sands and they lowered the drag anchor and were at the mercy of the sea and the wind.
 - 7) They were reaching the limit the ship could handle (exceedingly tempest-tossed), from the battering of the wind and sea, so they decided to begin lightening the load.
 - 8) On day three the ship's gear was tossed over.

- 9) Many days in the dark later, the storm continuously blocking all signs of light, the sailors become hopeless, had not eaten, and they are about to give up.

(b) Paul intervenes...

- 1) Paul stands up and says, "I told you so; you should have heeded my warning! However, no one will die if you listen to me now."
- 2) An angel has affirmed to Paul that he was on the ship because he MUST appear in Rome, and all those with him would survive too.
- 3) "I can promise you that if God says He will protect us, He will. But, it may not look the way you think it should."
- 4) "We might first get shipwrecked on a specific island for a specific reason."

(c) Fourteen days into this nightmarish storm, the men sense they are close to land.

- 1) They take multiple depth readings and the water is getting shallower.
- 2) Afraid they will smash on the rocks, they lower four rear anchors and pray for daylight.
- 3) Some think they can escape in the lifeboat. They work to let it down, while pretending they are lowering the forward anchors from the bow.

- 4) Paul warns them that they will die if they leave the ship.
“Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.”
- 5) The soldiers comply and release the skiff into the ocean.
- 6) Paul knows these men have not eaten in two weeks and he pleads with them to eat.
- 7) You need food to survive, and I am telling you, if you stay in the boat you will live. Not a hair on your head will be harmed.
- 8) Paul then breaks bread and offers gratitude to God, partakes himself, and then the men follow suit.
- 9) There were 216 people on the ship and once they all had some food, they tossed the rest of the wheat into the sea.

Shipwrecked on Malta (Acts 27:39-44)

4. As Paul predicted...
 - (a) “I promise you that God will protect us. But, we might first get shipwrecked on a specific island for a specific reason.”
 - 1) Finally, there is daylight and they are near land, but they cannot recognize it.
 - 2) However, there is a visible bay with a beach and they figure they can run the ship up onto the sand.
 - 3) They cut loose the anchors, free the rudder, hoist the mainsail (this is how we know they had not tossed rigs earlier), and aim for the shore.

- 4) As they approach the shores of Malta they enter a place where the Adriatic and the Mediterranean meet and they are caught in the crosscurrents.
- 5) The front of the ship becomes stuck into the sand and the back of the ship begins to come apart from the crashing of the violent surf.
- 6) At first the soldiers think to execute all the prisoners so none will escape.
- 7) But Julius likes Paul and does not want him killed, so he prevents that plan.
- 8) Instead, he commands all who can swim to jump overboard and head for shore, and those who cannot, to grab onto broken boards and float ashore.
- 9) They all survive just as Paul promised.

Acts 28

Shipwrecked on Malta (Acts 28:1-10)

5. From Murderer to Healer

(a) Ministry on Malta

- 1) Everyone aboard survives the shipwreck and finds themselves on Malta.
- 2) The residents of the island are a kind people who invite them to warm themselves by a fire.

- 3) Paul helps gather wood and while doing so is bit by a viper.
 - 4) The islanders are superstitious and assume Paul's misfortune indicates that he is some type of escaped prisoner and this is true justice being served.
 - 5) However, Paul tosses the creature into the fire and acts like nothing happened. There are no ill-effects from the bite whatsoever.
 - 6) All the natives think they'd witness Paul soon die from the poison, but when he didn't, instead of believing he was a criminal, they shift to thinking of him as some type of god.
- (b) Paul then finds himself in the presence of Publius, the most important man on the island.
- 1) Publius hosts them all for three days on his estate, and when Paul discovers that the man's father lay dying, he uses the opportunity to heal the man as a testimony.
 - 2) This opens access to every other sick person on Malta once they heard the story, and all the sick come to Paul and are healed.
 - 3) Paul becomes beloved and respected.
 - 4) This leads to the citizens of Malta offering to provide everything they need for the remainder of their journey to Rome.

Arrival in Rome (Acts 28:11-16)

6. The final leg of the journey...

(a) Favor in Rome

- 1) Paul and company stay just over three months on Malta and are able to leave on an Alexandrian ship, which had wintered there for safe-harbor.

(b) They make three stops before remaining on the mainland of Italy.

- 1) First is Syracuse on the southeastern shore of Sicily.
- 2) Then to Rhegium, which is on the western tip of the boot of Italy.
- 3) Finally, a day later they arrive in Puteoli up the western side of Italy, approximately 140 miles southeast of Rome.
- 4) Paul is met by some fellow Christians and stays with them for seven days.

(c) The final leg of the trip...

- 1) Other believers come to meet them as they journeyed northwest toward Rome and they meet at Appii Forum and Three Inns (Taverns).
- 2) Paul is grateful for the greeting and respite before arriving in Rome.
- 3) In Rome, the centurion (Julius) assigned to deliver Paul to Caesar, hands him over to captain of the guard.

- 4) He is not kept in nasty prison, but instead finds favor and lives alone in a small dwelling under watch of the palace guard.

Paul's Ministry at Rome (Acts 28:17-31)

7. A Dream Come True!

(a) What Paul has been waiting for...

- 1) Three days after his arrival in Rome, Paul gathers the local Jewish leaders to bring them up to speed about why he is in Rome.
- 2) First of all, I am not here because of any transgression against the people of Israel nor our laws and customs.
- 3) I was imprisoned in Jerusalem by aggressive Jews who were offended by my faith in Y'shua as the Jewish Messiah (more about that in a minute).
- 4) I was handed off to the Roman legal system, really because those Jews were beating me without cause and a Roman commander (Claudius Lysias) stepped in to stop it.
- 5) The Roman commander heard my case and found me innocent, but later became aware that a request from the Jewish leaders that he allow them to conduct further questioning was just a plot to kill me during transport.
- 6) As a response he sent me over to Governor Felix in Caesarea. That led to a series of opportunities to preach

before two governors, a king, and an auditorium full of prominent people.

(b) Paul appeals to Caesar in Rome.

- 1) I exercised my rights as a Roman citizen and appealed my case to Caesar, so here I am, living in the midst of the prophecy over my life.
- 2) And let's be clear: I am not here to say anything subversive against our Jewish people or Israel to Caesar—just to speak the truth.
- 3) And this is precisely why I want to tell all you Jews about my incarceration.
- 4) It all came to pass because I have been preaching about the very things our people have been hoping for over many generations.

(c) Interestingly, the Jews in Jerusalem have heard nothing bad of Paul.

- 1) All they know is that they have heard bad things about the “Sect” Paul is promoting (the Way, Nazarenes, Christians).

(d) They all show up at Paul's place and he begins to explain about the kingdom of God.

- 1) Some come to the faith as Paul uses the Law of Moses and the Prophets to show them that Y'shua is indeed the long-awaited Messiah of Israel.

- 2) Others ignore the facts and remain unbelievers.
 - 3) Paul quotes from Isaiah 6:9-10 to explain the separation between the two groups.
 - a. Some just won't get it no matter what!
 - b. They have hard hearts.
 - c. If they did believe He'd heal them!
 - 4) That's why I went to the Gentiles and is really why the unbelieving are so angry.
- (e) Paul spends two years ministering in Rome.
- 1) He dwells in a rented house and is able to minister to all who come to him.
 - 2) He teaches about the kingdom of God and things concerning Y'shua as Messiah and no one tries to stop him.

I'M GOING ~~HOME~~ ROME!

1. Just like Paul testified in Jerusalem...

A. ...He must testify in Rome

(1) The Voyage to Rome Begins (Acts 27:1-8)

(a) A decision is made to start their way to Rome...

1. "And when it was decided that we should sail to Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to one named Julius, a centurion of the Augustan Regiment.

So, entering a ship of Adramyttium, we put to sea, meaning to sail along the coasts of Asia. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, was with us. And the next day we landed at **Sidon**. And **Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him liberty to go to his friends and receive care**. When we had put to sea from there, we sailed **under the shelter of Cyprus**, because the winds were contrary. And when we had sailed over the sea which is off Cilicia and Pamphylia, **we came to Myra, a city of Lycia**. There the centurion found an **Alexandrian ship sailing to Italy**, and he put us on board. When we had sailed slowly many days, and **arrived with difficulty off Cnidus**, the wind not permitting us to proceed, we sailed under the shelter of **Crete off Salmone**. Passing it with difficulty, we came to a place called **Fair Havens, near the city of Lasea**.” Acts 27:1-8 NKJV

2. The Early Part of the Journey to Rome from Caesarea
 - a) Paul and other prisoners leave for Italy.
 - b) Julius, a centurion of the Augustan Regiment is in charge (he treats Paul kindly).
 - c) Preview:

- 1) Paul's relationship with this man plays a critical role later on.
 - 2) After the ship gets stuck in the sand off the coast of Malta, Julius prevents Paul from being executed.
 - 3) Just another indication that when God promises something, it will come to pass, even if He must move the heart of a pagan to make it so!
- d) Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, was with them.
 - e) The intent is to sail close to the Asian coastline.
3. Stops along the way:
- a) First Stop: Sidon, just up the coast from Caesarea (Paul visits friends).
 - b) From Sidon they sail north to the east of Cyprus and then due west between Cyprus and the mainland of Cilicia and Pamphylia.
 - c) Second Stop: Myra, a city of Lycia (Julius finds their next ship).
 - d) Third Stop: days later in Cnidus, the western tip of a peninsula in Asia.
 - e) Fourth Stop: south to Salmone on the eastern side of Crete.

- f) Fifth Stop: they sail to the south side of Crete to Fair Havens near Lasea.

(2) Paul's Warning Ignored (**Acts 27:9-12**)

(a) Heeding the Voices of the Majority

1. "Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because **the Fast** was already over, **Paul advised them**, saying, "**Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives.**" Nevertheless the **centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner** of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul. And because the **harbor was not suitable to winter** in, the majority advised to set sail from there also, **if by any means they could reach Phoenix**, a harbor of Crete opening toward the southwest and northwest, and winter there." Acts 27:9-12 NKJV
2. Paul predicts there is danger ahead, unless...
 - a) They have been traveling for a while and it is now the Fall.
 - b) Point of Interest

- 1) The fast here refers to Yom Kippur which is on the tenth day of the seventh month on the Hebrew Calendar (Tishri).
 - 2) However, the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar corresponds to September on our calendar.
 - 3) Notice that “Sept” means seven, named because it corresponds to when it falls on the Hebrew calendar, as opposed to our Gregorian calendar, in which September is the ninth month.
- c) Paul has discernment about continuing their journey at that time of year.
 - d) He feels it will end in the destruction of the ship, and loss of cargo and lives, if they don’t stay in Fair Havens for the winter.
 - e) He advises Julius of such, but the centurion was more influenced by the one steering the ship and the owner persuades Julius to carry on.
 - f) They believe the harbor in Fair Havens is not safe for the winter, so the majority of those consulted overrule Paul’s recommendation.
 - g) Point of Interest

- 1) The Bible warns us to not simply follow a side because they have the majority... *"You shall not follow a crowd (the majority) to do evil..."*

Exodus 23:2

- h) They decide to do whatever is necessary to head further west on the south side of Crete to Phoenix.
- i) That would give them safe harbor for the winter, in their opinion, and a clear opening toward Italy after that.

(3) Tempest-tossed (**Acts 27:13-38**)

- (a) They should have heeded Paul's advice!

1. **"When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their desire,** putting out to sea, they sailed close by Crete. But **not long after, a tempestuous head wind arose,** called Euroclydon. So when the ship was caught, and **could not head into the wind,** we let her drive. And running under the shelter of an island called Clauda, we secured the skiff with difficulty. When they had taken it on board, they **used cables to undergird the ship;** and fearing lest they should run aground on the **Syrtis Sands,** **they struck sail and so were driven.** And because we were **exceedingly tempest-tossed,** the next day they

lightened the ship. On the third day we threw the ship's tackle overboard with our own hands. Now when **neither sun nor stars appeared for many days**, and no small tempest beat on us, **all hope that we would be saved was finally given up**. But after long abstinence from food, then **Paul** stood in the midst of them and **said, "Men, you should have listened to me**, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss. And now I urge you to **take heart, for there will be no loss of life** among you, but only of the ship. For there stood by me this night **an angel of the God** to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, '**Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.**' Therefore take heart, men, for **I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. However, we must run aground on a certain island.**"

Now when the fourteenth night had come, as we were driven up and down in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the **sailors sensed that they were drawing near some land**. And they took soundings and found it to be **twenty fathoms**; and when they had gone a little farther, they took soundings again and found it

to be **fifteen fathoms**. Then, fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern, and prayed for day to come. And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, when they had let down the skiff into the sea, under pretense of putting out anchors from the prow, Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, **“Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.”** Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the skiff and let it fall off. And as day was about to dawn, Paul implored them all to take food, saying, “Today is **the fourteenth day** you have waited and continued without food, and eaten nothing. Therefore I urge you to take nourishment, **for this is for your survival, since not a hair will fall from the head of any of you.**” And when he had said these things, **he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all**; and when he had broken it he began to eat. Then **they were all encouraged**, and also took food themselves. And in all we were **two hundred and seventy-six persons on the ship**. So when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship and **threw out the wheat into the sea.**” Acts 27:13-38 NKJV

2. Things look favorable, so let's go! (Sometimes God gives you EXACTLY what you want—even when it is NOT what He wants.)
- a) The conditions look ideal to set off from Fair Havens, so against Paul's advice they launch.
 - b) It does not take long before they are met with a blustery northeaster headwind, blowing from the direction of the island out to sea.
 - c) The ship is now blocked and cannot head back to shore against the wind, so they are forced to let the ship go to wherever the wind would take her.
 - d) They got some temporary protection from the island of Clauda, which permitted them to take the lifeboat on board.
 - e) They then used the skiff tie downs to wrap under the boat to give it extra strength in case they struck ground.
 - f) It says they were nearing *Syrtis Sands* and they *struck sail* and were at the mercy of the sea and the wind.
- 1) **Syrtis Sands:** These are sandbars and shallows of on the Syrtis. The Syrtis was the name of two gulfs on the North African coast (modern Libya),

feared greatly by sailors because of their shifting sandbars and treacherous shallows. The Syrtis here is the so-called Great Syrtis, toward Cyrenaica. It had a horrible reputation as a sailors' graveyard. The Jewish historian Josephus says the name alone struck terror in those who heard it.

- 2) **Struck sail:** Two thoughts here. One is that it means to lower the main sail, which is less likely as that would have surely already been done previously, as soon as the wind became violent. The other thought is that they let down the draganchor, the sea anchor used to slow down the ship's speed, and that is mostly likely to what "struck sail" is referring.
3. They were reaching the limit the ship could handle (exceedingly tempest-tossed), from the battering of the wind and sea, so they decided to begin lightening the load.
 - a) On day three the ship's gear was tossed over.
 - 1) This is not the rigging or tackle related to the sail as that would mean they could not raise the

sails again, which they do later as they approach Malta.

- 2) It is obviously other non-essential gear.
- b) Many days later, still in the dark, the storm continuously blocking all signs of light, the sailors become hopeless, had not eaten, and they are about to give up.
4. Paul stands up and says “I told you so; you should have heeded my warning! However, no one will die if you listen to me now.”
 - a) An angel has affirmed that I am on this ship because I **MUST** appear in Rome, and all those with me will survive too.
 - b) Look at everything that lines up to affirm Paul will get to Rome!
 - 1) “...without ceasing I [**Paul**] make mention of you always **in my prayers**, making request **if, by some means**, now at last **I may find a way in the will of God to come to you.**” Romans 1:9-10 NKJV
 - 2) “But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Be of good cheer, Paul; for **as you**

have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome.”” Acts 23:11 NKJV

- 3) *“...I appeal to Caesar [in Rome].” Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, “You have appealed to Caesar [in Rome]? To Caesar [in Rome] you shall go!””*

Acts 25:11-12 NKJV

- 4) *“Then Agrippa said to Festus, “This man might have been set free if he had not **appealed to Caesar [in Rome]**.”” Acts 26:32 NKJV*

- 5) **And here:** *“[The angel] saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; **you must be brought before Caesar [in Rome]**; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.’” Acts 27:24 NKJV*

- c) I can promise you that if God says He will protect us, He will. But, it may not look the way you think it should.
- d) We might first get shipwrecked on a specific island for a specific reason.
- e) Fourteen days into this nightmarish storm, the men sense they are close to land.
- f) They take multiple depth readings and the water is getting shallower.

- g) Afraid they will smash on the rocks, they lower four rear anchors and pray for daylight.
 - h) Some think they can escape in the lifeboat. They work to let it down, while pretending they are lowering the forward anchors from the bow.
5. Paul warns them that they will die if they leave the ship at that time.
- a) *“Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.”*
 - 1) See Son of Jonah in ***Section B** below for an expanded prophetic lesson about staying in the boat.
 - 2) That is where you will see a summarized version of Son of Jonah found in its entirety in [All That Will Be Already Is](#).
 - 3) The Son of Jonah section can be found starting on Page 41 of the notes from that sermon.
 - 4) Watch the sermon for the full prophetic scope.
 - b) The soldiers comply and release the skiff into the ocean.
 - c) Paul knows these men have not eaten in two weeks and he pleads with them to eat.

- d) You need food to survive, and I am telling you, if you stay in the boat you will live. Not a hair on your head will be harmed.
- e) Paul then breaks bread and offers gratitude to God (as is Jewish tradition and similar to communion), partakes himself, and then the men follow suit.
- f) There were 216 people on the ship and once they all had some food, they tossed the rest of the wheat into the sea.

B. *Son of Jonah: Things new and things old!

(1) Things NEW

(a) Incident #1: Y'shua and His Disciples get in the Boat.

(Matthew 8:23-25)

- 1. A great storm threatens the boat...
- 2. His disciples fear for their lives...
- 3. Y'shua is asleep!
- 4. There is more to this story in Matthew 8:26-27 where we see Y'shua's response (coming soon!)

(b) Incident #2: Y'shua tells His disciples to leave in a boat without Him so He can go pray. (Matthew 14:22-33)

- 1. The boat gets caught in a storm...
- 2. The waves and wind make it impossible for them to make any progress...

3. Y'shua walks out onto the water towards them (Mark 6:45-52 says He would have walked right past them had they not called out!)
4. Only Matthew's version includes the narrative of Peter getting out of the boat to walk on the water.
5. Note: Y'shua does not ask Peter to leave the boat; it is Peter who asks to leave the boat, "*command me to come to You on the water.*"
6. He does so, and as long as his eyes are on Y'shua (not fleeing from the Lord), things are good!
7. But, take special note that the storm ends only when they get back into the boat.
8. Prophetic moment to notice: Both Peter and Jonah left the boat! (More on this later in Matthew 14:22-33)

(c) Simon Peter is often called the son of Jonah (John 1:42). Why?

1. Peter is called the Son of Jonah by Christ in three areas of Scripture. This is likely because Peter was constantly resisting the Lord. Peter had Jonah-like tendencies. Plus as you will see—Peter will hold the "Keys to the Kingdom!"

- a) Prophetic connection: One became a fisher of men, the other became a food of fish!
- b) TO PETER **“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”** They **immediately** left their nets and followed Him.” (Matthew 4:19-20)
- c) TO JONAH **“Arise, go to Nineveh... But Jonah** arose to **flee to Tarshish** from the presence of the Lord...” (Jonah 1:2-3) **“Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish** three days and three nights.” (Jonah 1:17)
- (d) Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am? (Matthew 16:13-19)
 - 1. Peter knows His Lord (like Jonah)
 - 2. Keys to the Kingdom: Peter is the central figure in unlocking the mysteries of the kingdom and his connection to Jonah is the key!
- (e) But when Peter does not like the message... (Matthew 16:21-23)
 - 1. Peter resists the Lord like Jonah
 - 2. He is obstinate to the point where he literally rebuked Y’shua!

- (f) Peter is told that he would deny the Lord three times...
(Matthew 26:31-35)
 - 1. And he does deny Y'shua... (Matthew 26:69-75)
- (g) Peter has a long list of Jonah-like tendencies...
 - 1. No wonder he was called Simon Son of Jonah!
Follow me and I will make you a fisher of men! If you don't, I will make you a "man in a fish."
 - a. Peter won't stay in the boat!
 - b. Peter won't agree that Christ would suffer!
 - c. Peter won't believe he will deny Christ!
 - d. Peter won't preach to the gentiles (Acts 10).
- (h) All that and STILL Y'shua makes him the source of
FOOD for his sheep! (John 21:15-19)
 - 1. Peter is restored (like Jonah)
 - 2. Peter must see himself as a source of food for God's sheep! Keep that in mind!
 - 3. Like Jonah was a source of food for a BIG FISH that carried him where he did not wish to go!
- (2) Things OLD (See: [Three Days and Three Nights: Turn the Boat Around](#))
 - (a) Jonah is Obstinate (Jonah 1:1-3)
 - 1. Don't tell me how it's going to be!
 - 2. I will do things my way! (So Peter-like)

(b) Panic on the Hight Seas... (Jonah 1:4-9)

1. The boat is caught in a storm.
2. The boat is coming apart.
3. The men are afraid for their lives...
4. And the man they need to talk to is sleeping!
 - a) Jonah must have something to do with this.
 - b) What do you do and where do you come from?
5. This is where they go sideways!
 - a) The men are in full panic mode.
 - b) They roll some dice to figure out the cause of their trouble!
 - c) Of course this is not by chance, but by design.
 - d) Yahweh wants to get Jonah's attention.
6. Questions and Answers
 - a) Questions...
 - 1) What is causing this trouble?
 - 2) What is your occupation?
 - 3) Where do you come from (country and nationality)?
 - b) Answers...
 - 1) I am a Hebrew.
 - 2) I fear Yahweh.

3) He is the God of heaven, the one who made the sea and the land...

(c) Jonah exits the boat! (Jonah 1:10-16)

1. Throw me out of the boat (Jonah says)...

a) They would prefer not to, but they see no other option! Was there another option?

b) What could have Jonah done instead?

c) He could have stayed in the boat, but how?

(d) The Last words of Jonah Chapter One! (Jonah 1:17)

1. Jonah was swallowed by a fish and was in the belly of the fish **three days and three nights**.

2. He chose to be a man in a fish instead of a fisher of man!

3. Jonah was going to be carried where he did not wish to go—like Peter (John 21:18)!

(e) The sign of the Prophet Jonah! (Matthew 12:38-42)

1. Only one sign: Why is the sign of Jonah for “an evil and adulterous generation?”

2. Because Jonah was an obstinate disobedient prophet.

3. Nevertheless, God uses all things to His benefit.

(f) How is it possible you could miss something so obvious? (Matthew 16:1-4)

1. You can predict the weather, but you can't count to three (three days **AND** three nights)!
2. Jonah was swallowed by a great fish and was "entombed" deep in its gut for three days and three nights—then he was released.
3. Y'shua will also be "entombed" three days and three nights before He is released.
4. Ironically multiple generations of Christians, even to the present day, cannot count three days and three nights in their death, burial and resurrection narrative.
5. The sign of Jonah has eluded them, even as it did those trapped in religionship in the first century—what Y'shua called an evil and adulterous generation!

C. Nothing new—just transformed!

- (1) Let's integrate the new and old stories to create something "new" or "changed!"
 - (a) The Lord sent out a great wind on the sea...
 1. "Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. **And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea [Jonah: and there was a mighty tempest on the sea.], so that the boat was covered with the waves [Luke 8:23 they were filling with water, and**

were in jeopardy.] [Jonah: the ship was about to be broken up.]. But He was asleep [Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep.] Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!” [Jonah: What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish.] Matthew 8:23-25 NKJV

2. Jonah and Y’shua

- 1) Jonah’s name means “Dove”
- 2) Y’shua said... “Behold, I send you out as **sheep in the midst of wolves**. Therefore be wise **as serpents and harmless as doves**.” Matthew 10:16 NKJV
- 3) As gentle as Jonah was supposed to be!
- 4) Both are in the boat as the storm rages.
- 5) Both are fast asleep.
- 6) Both are awakened by panicked passengers in fear for their lives.

(2) In the other stormy incident when Y’shua and Peter walked on the water in Matthew 14:22-33...

- (a) The disciples were straining against the wind and waves.

- (b) In contrast to Jonah hiding from the presence of the Lord, the Lord was walking into the presence of His disciples.
- (c) In contrast to the wind ceasing **when Jonah is tossed from the boat**, when Y'shua **gets into the boat** the wind ceases!
- (d) The underlying message here, as we look back at Jonah's story is this: If he would have STAYED IN THE BOAT and told the sailors to turn the boat around and head back toward Nineveh, the waters would have calmed instantly, like when Y'shua got into the boat. But he chose instead... *"Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you."*
- (e) And in Mark 6:48, as Y'shua walked on the water toward His fearful disciples, He would have passed them by had they noticed Him. And that in Matthew 14:28, it is Peter who insists (in son of Jonah-like fashion) that he go into the water.
- (f) It is easy to see the amazing faith part of Peter walking on water and what happens when you take your eyes off the Lord. And it is just as easy to miss the kingdom mystery—He should have stayed in the boat and calmed the sea himself!

(g) Why? Because in contrast to Jonah calming the water by being tossed in, something he COULD HAVE WHOLLY AVOIDED, the Kingdom Lesson is this! HAVE FAITH AND STAY IN THE BOAT! *“And when they **got into the boat**, the wind ceased.”*

(a) “Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, **“Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.”**”

Acts 27:31 NKJV

(h) Jonah should have stayed in the boat and instructed the navigators to “turn the boat around” and the storm would have ceased! Peter could have stayed in the boat and “had faith to rebuke the winds” and the storm would have ceased!

(a) “Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, **“Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.”**”

Acts 27:31 NKJV

(3) How do we know?

(a) All we have to do is go back to our first incident with Y’shua sleeping in the boat and the raging sea...

(b) Kingdom Mystery (as the New and the Old collide).

1. Between these verses in the NEW...

- a) *“Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!” (Matthew 8:25)*
 - b) **and what came next...** *“He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then **He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.** ” (Matthew 8:26)*
 - c) **...was all the OLD drama of Jonah**
2. In the NEW it's this simple....
- a) Y'shua simply rebuked the wind and it was calm.
 - b) Peter could have stayed in the boat and rebuked the wind—he already saw it happen!
 - c) But, instead he wanted to enter the water—like Jonah who touched the water with his body and calmed the storm!
 - d) However, that was not his best choice (and not the only lesson)—it would be better to exercise faith, stay in the boat and simply turn it around!
 - e) When you take the New and add the Old, you get the right answer!
 - f) If you simply repeat the old, it's like going around the mountain all over again!

g) **“Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.”** Acts 27:31 NKJV

(4) Shipwrecked on Malta (**Acts 27:39-44**)

(a) As Paul predicted...

1. “When it was day, they did not recognize the land; but they **observed a bay with a beach**, onto which they **planned to run the ship if possible**. And they **let go the anchors and left them in the sea**, meanwhile loosing the rudder ropes; and they **hoisted the mainsail to the wind and made for shore**. But striking a place where two seas met, **they ran the ship aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable**, but the **stern was being broken up** by the violence of the waves. And **the soldiers’ plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim away and escape**. But the centurion, wanting to save Paul, **kept them from their purpose**, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land, and the rest, some on boards and some on parts of the ship. And so it was that **they all escaped safely to land**.” Acts 27:39-44 NKJV

2. "I promise you that God will protect us. But, we might first get shipwrecked on a specific island for a specific reason."
- a) Finally, there is daylight and they are near land, but they cannot recognize it.
 - b) However, there is a visible bay with a beach and they figure they can run the ship up onto the sand.
 - c) They cut loose the anchors, free the rudder, hoist the mainsail and aim for the shore.
 - 1) This is how we know that when they tossed the gear earlier, it was not referring to the rigs for the sail.
 - d) As they approach the shores of Malta they enter a place where the Adriatic and the Mediterranean meet and they are caught in the crosscurrents.
 - e) The front of the ship becomes stuck into the sand and the back of the ship begins to come apart from the crashing of the violent waves.
 - f) At first the soldiers think to execute all the prisoners so none will escape.
 - g) But Julius likes Paul and does not want him killed, so he prevents that plan.

- 1) That is why it was essential that he found favor with Julius earlier.
 - h) Instead, he commands all who can swim to jump overboard and head for shore, and those who cannot, to grab onto broken boards and float ashore.
 - i) They all survive just as Paul promised.
- (5) Shipwrecked on Malta (**Acts 28:1-10**)
- (a) From Murderer to Healer
 - 1. “Now when they had escaped, they then found out that **the island was called Malta**. And **the natives showed us unusual kindness**; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold. But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, **a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand**. So when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, “**No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow to live.**” But **he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm.** However, they were expecting that he would swell up or suddenly fall

down dead. But after they had looked for a long time and saw no harm come to him, **they changed their minds and said that he was a god.** In that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days. And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. **Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him.** So when this was done, **the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed.** They also honored us in many ways; and **when we departed, they provided** such things as were necessary.” Acts 28:1-10 NKJV

2. Ministry on Malta

- a) Everyone aboard survives the shipwreck and finds themselves on Malta.
- b) The residents of the island are a kind people who invite them to warm themselves by a fire.
- c) Paul helps gather wood and while doing so is bit by a viper.
- d) The islanders are superstitious and assume Paul's misfortune indicates that he is some type of

escaped prisoner and this is true justice being served.

- e) However, Paul tosses the creature into the fire and acts like nothing happened. There are no ill-effects from the bite whatsoever.
- f) All the natives think they'd witness Paul soon die from the poison, but when he didn't, instead of believing he was a criminal, they shift to thinking of him as some type of god.

3. Paul finds himself in the presence of Publius, the most important man on the island.

- a) Here again, like we saw in Caesarea when Paul found himself standing before a king and all the most prominent people in the city (See [Influence the Influencers](#) Acts 25:23-26:1)
- b) Publius hosts them for three days on his estate, and when Paul discovers that the man's father lay dying, he uses the opportunity to heal the man as a testimony.
- c) This opens access to every other sick person on Malta once they hear the story, and all the sick come to Paul and are healed.

- d) Paul becomes beloved and respected. This leads to the citizens of Malta providing everything they need for the remainder of their journey to Rome.

WHAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF

2. What happens when you stay in the boat?

A. Like in Jerusalem, Paul testifies in Rome

(1) Arrival in Rome (**Acts 28:11-16**)

(a) The final leg of the journey...

1. “**After three months** we sailed in an Alexandrian ship whose figurehead was the Twin Brothers, which had **wintered at the island**. And **landing at Syracuse**, we stayed three days. From there we circled round and reached **Rhegium**. And after one day the south wind blew; and the next day we came to **Puteoli**, where we found brethren, and were invited to **stay with them seven days**. And **so we went toward Rome**. And from there, when the brethren heard about us, they came to meet us as far as **Appii Forum and Three Inns**. **When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage**. Now when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard; but **Paul was permitted to dwell by**

himself with the soldier who guarded him.” Acts

28:11-16 NKJV

2. Favor in Rome

- a) Paul and company stay just over three months on Malta and are able to leave on an Alexandrian ship, which had wintered there for safe-harbor.
- b) They make three stops before remaining on the mainland of Italy.
 - 1) First is Syracuse on the southeastern shore of Sicily.
 - 2) Then to Rhegium, which is on the western tip of the boot of Italy.
 - 3) Finally, a day later they arrive in Puteoli up the western side of Italy, approximately 140 miles southeast of Rome.
- c) Paul is met by some fellow Christians and stays with them for seven days.
- d) Other believers come to meet them as they journeyed northwest toward Rome and they meet at Appii Forum and Three Inns (Taverns).
 - 1) This is a small town located on the main road between cities which had accommodations for

travelers to rest and be refreshed before they continue their journey.

- 2) In this case they were approximately 40 miles southeast of Rome.
- e) Paul is grateful for the greeting and respite before arriving in Rome.
- f) In Rome, the centurion (Julius) assigned to deliver Paul to Caesar, hands him over to captain of the guard.
 - 1) This is likely the head of the guards of whom he writes in Philippians...
 - 2) *“But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the **whole palace guard**, and to all the rest, **that my chains are in Christ**; and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.”* Philippians 1:12-14 NKJV
- g) He is not kept in nasty prison, but instead finds favor and lives alone in a small dwelling under watch of the palace guard.

(2) Paul's Ministry at Rome (**Acts 28:17-31**)

(a) A Dream Come True!

1. "And it came to pass **after three days that Paul called the leaders of the Jews together**. So when they had come together, he said to them: "**Men and brethren, though I have 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, who, when they had examined me, wanted to let me go, because there was no cause for putting me to death. But when the Jews spoke against it, **I was compelled to appeal to Caesar, not that I had anything of which to accuse my nation**. For this reason therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because **for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain**." Then they said to him, "**We neither received letters** from Judea concerning you, **nor have any of the brethren who came reported or spoken any evil of you**. But **we desire to hear from you** what you think; for concerning this sect, we know that it is spoken against everywhere." So **when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging**, to whom he **explained and solemnly**

testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening. And **some were persuaded** by the things which were spoken, and **some disbelieved**. So when they did not agree among themselves, **they departed after Paul had said one word: “The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah** the prophet to our fathers, saying, ‘Go to this people and say: “Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.” [Isaiah 6:9-10] ’ **“Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!”** And when he had said these words, the Jews departed and had a **great dispute** among themselves. Then **Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house**, and received all who came to him, **preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord**

Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.” Acts 28:17-31 NKJV

2. What Paul has been waiting for...

- a) *“For I long to see you, that I may **impart to you some spiritual gift**, so that you may be established — that is, that **I may be encouraged together with you** by the mutual faith both of you and me.”*

Romans 1:11-12 NKJV

- b) Three days after his arrival in Rome, Paul gathers the local Jewish leaders to bring them up to speed about why he is in Rome.

3. This is what he tells them...

- a) First of all, I am not here because of any transgression against the people of Israel nor our laws and customs.
- b) I was imprisoned in Jerusalem by aggressive Jews who were offended by my faith in Y’shua as the Jewish Messiah (more about that in a minute!).
- c) I was handed off to the Roman legal system, really because those Jews were beating me without cause and a Roman commander (Claudius Lysias) stepped in to stop it. (See Acts 21:31-33 and [Forgiven... yet Liable](#))

- d) The Roman commander heard my case and found me innocent, but later became aware that a request from the Jewish leaders that he allow them to conduct further questioning was just a plot to kill me during transport.
 - e) As a response he sent me over to Governor Felix in Caesarea. That led to a series of opportunities to preach before two governors, a king, and an auditorium full of prominent people.
4. You can learn about it in Acts 24-27 and in [Influence the Influencers](#), but the short of it is this...
- a) I had to appeal to Caesar in Rome for three main reasons:
 - 1) The first is because, for the longest time, I was desperate to get to Rome by any means possible (See Romans 1:8-15).
 - a. To impart to you some spiritual gift...
 - b. So that you may be established...
 - c. So that I might have some fruit among you...
 - d. To preach the gospel to you who are in Rome!
 - 2) Then God told me in Acts 23:11 that I would wind up here when He revealed, *“as you have*

testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome.”

- 3) And last, as crazy as it sounds, I had such a distrust for the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem that when Governor Festus in Caesarea asked me if I'd like to go back to Jerusalem to be judged by the Jewish Courts (Acts 25:9), I told him I'd rather be judged by Nero, the pagan leader of Rome.

(Acts 25:10-12). (See [Influence the Influencers](#))

- b) As such, I exercised my rights as a Roman citizen and appealed my case to Caesar, so here I am, living in the midst of the prophecy over my life.
 - c) And let's be clear: I am not here to say anything subversive against our Jewish people or Israel to Caesar—just to speak the truth.
 - d) And this is precisely why I want to tell all you Jews about my incarceration. It all came to pass because I have been preaching about the very things our people **have been hoping for** over many generations.
5. Interestingly, the Jews in Jerusalem have heard nothing bad of Paul.

- a) All they know is that they have heard bad things about the “Sect” Paul is promoting (the Way, Nazarenes, Christians).
- 6. They all show up at Paul’s place and he begins to explain about the kingdom of God.
 - a) Some come to the faith as Paul uses the Law of Moses and the Prophets to show them that Y’shua is indeed the long-awaited Messiah of Israel.
 - b) Others ignore the facts and remain unbelievers.
 - c) Paul quotes from ***Isaiah 6:9-10** to explain the separation between the two groups.
 - 1) Some just won’t get it no matter what!
 - 2) They have hard hearts.
 - 3) If they did believe God would heal them!
 - 4) *** Y’shua refers to Isaiah 6:9-10** within the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-23), in verse 14.
 - 5) We also see Isaiah 6:9-10 referred to in Luke 8:10; Mark 4:12; John 12:40; and by Paul in Romans 11:8
 - d) That’s why I went to the Gentiles. (This fact is what always makes the non-believing Jews most angry.)
- 7. Paul spends two years ministering in Rome.

- a) He dwells in a rented house and is able to minister the TWO GOSPELS to all who come to him.
 - 1) “**preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ** with all confidence, no one forbidding him.”
Acts 28:31
 - 2) He teaches about the kingdom of God (the Gospel of the Kingdom), and things concerning the reality that Y’shua is the long-awaited Savior of Israel (the Gospel of Salvation), and no one prevents him.

THE TWO GOSPELS

3. When you stay in the boat the kingdom comes...

A. Evidence that demands a verdict...

(1) The Gospel of the Kingdom

(a) Stay in the Boat!

- 1. “But he who **endures to the end shall be saved**. And **this gospel of the kingdom** will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then **the end will come**.” Matthew 24:13-14 NKJV

- a) Endure to the end, don't get out of the boat and participate in the most exciting events the world will ever experience!
- b) The gospel of the kingdom preached in all the world!
- c) And then the end! (See [Passover](#) teaching to get a full understanding what the "end" means.)

(2) Recognizing Two Gospels

(a) This AND That!

1. **"preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ** with all confidence, no one forbidding him." Acts 28:31 NKJV
2. "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [and] **teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen." Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV

3. “Here is the patience of the saints; here are those **who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.**” Revelation 14:12 NKJV

a) Faith in Y’shua brings eternal salvation.
b) That empowers God’s children to live in radical-grace-empowered-faith-based to God. That is what will bring the kingdom of heaven to earth!

1) “***Your kingdom come. Your will be done*** On earth as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:10 NKJV

2) “For ***this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.*** And His commandments are not burdensome.” I John 5:3 NKJV

(3) How do we get from here to there?

(a) Grace!

1. “Therefore, **having been justified by faith**, we have peace with God **through our Lord Jesus Christ**, through whom **also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:1-2 NKJV

a) By GRACE through FAITH you are saved!

1) “For ***by grace you have been saved through faith***, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,” Ephesians 2:8 NKJV

b) By FAITH through GRACE you live your life!

- 1) *“**Grace** and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as **His** **divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,”* II Peter 1:2-3 NKJV

B. Two Gospels perfectly summarized in 373 words (I Cor. 2)

(1) **One:** The Gospel of Salvation (I Corinthians 2:1-5)

(a) Christ Crucified!

1. “And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For **I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified**. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And **my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit** and of power, that **your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.**” I Corinthians 2:1-5 NKJV
2. The Gospel of Salvation is all God!

- a) It's a simple message that will make absolutely no sense if the power of God has not touched someone's heart first.
- b) There is really nothing to tell anyone, who has not been born again, anything more complicated than Jesus Christ (Y'shua the Messiah) is the Son of God and He died for your sins.
- c) And that message will seem like absolute lunacy to the unredeemed heart. It's an absurd idea that has no logic attached to it and that is why it can only be received by grace through faith.
- d) Man does not become born-again because he is convinced to repeat-after-me some words of confession. Man is born-again by the supernatural touch of God FIRST and he confesses as a RESULT of his born-again encounter.
- e) As such, the message of the cross should not be presented in any fancy way with any brilliant demonstration of speaking skills or inspirational oration as to convince anyone of anything.
- f) If the message of the Gospel of Salvation is presented as if it's a motivational message coming from a polished public speaker, then it will be

difficult to distinguish if the response is to the skills of men or the power of God.

- g) That is why church buildings are filled with cheering fans, excited by concert music and polished self-help messages from professional speakers, with the smoke and lights cherry on top.
- h) And that is why church buildings are filled with myriads of people who claim to be Christians, believe they are Christians, but have never had a true encounter with Christ!

3. Think about it!

- a) The idea that a man was nailed to a cross and somehow that can save us from eternal damnation is science fiction to the logical mind!

- 1) “For **the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing**, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” I

Corinthians 1:18 NKJV

- b) Salvation can only come because God’s power touches a man’s heart first and infuses him with the faith to believe something that would make no sense otherwise. It’s a gift, not something earned in

any way whatsoever; including even taking credit for your own confession.

- 1) “For **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is **the gift of God, not of works**, lest anyone should boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV

- c) The entire weight of salvation is carried by Christ and depends on His righteousness alone.

- 1) “Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have **obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:**” II Peter 1:1

NKJV

(2) **Two:** The Gospel of the Kingdom (**I Corinthians 2:6-16**)

(a) The Mind of Christ

1. “**However**, we speak wisdom among those who are **mature**, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak **the wisdom of God in a mystery**, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages **for our glory**, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: “Eye has not seen,

nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man
The things which God has prepared for those who
love Him.” **But God has revealed them to us through
His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the
deep things of God.** For what man knows the things
of a man **except the spirit of the man** which is in
him? Even so **no one knows the things of God except
the Spirit of God.** Now **we have received, not the
spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God,
that we might know** the things that have been freely
given to us by God. These things we also speak, not
in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the
Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with
spiritual. **But the natural man does not receive the
things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness
to him;** nor can he know them, because **they are
spiritually discerned.** But he who is spiritual judges
all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.
For **“who has known the mind of the Lord that he
may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.”**
I Corinthians 2:6-16 NKJV

2. However, the Gospel of the Kingdom is God not working alone, but with man. (*HIP: Human Initiative Partners*)
 - a) Something happens AFTER Christ crucified becomes our reality. It's time to grow up!
 - b) The mature Christian has all sorts of opportunities.
 - c) We have access to the once hidden wisdom of God, so we can come into the glory God planned for us.
 - d) Man's glorious end has been prepared from the beginning, for those who love Him.
 - e) But only after we are born again can we understand this glorious outcome through His Spirit.
 - f) The Holy Spirit gives us access to the deepest mysteries of God.
3. This is how it works.
 - a) Unredeemed man has a human spirit who knows everything about man.
 - b) The redeemed man has access to the Holy Spirit who now can understand the things of God.

- c) When you are born again, you are not given another version of the human spirit, but the Spirit who is from God. Why?
 - d) So we can understand what God has made available to those who are filled with His Spirit.
 - e) This is what Paul is teaching, but not to the unbeliever. Again, the only thing they need to hear is Christ crucified.
4. And Paul is not accessing the wisdom of man to teach the wisdom of God. He is accessing the Holy Spirit, so we can understand spiritual matters.
- a) Why? The human spirit cannot understand the Spirit of God; it's complete foolishness to him.
 - b) God's heart and plan for us can only be discerned by the Holy Spirit.
 - c) That is like tapping the mind of God; and if that seems intimidating, think of it this way.
 - d) You are not doing so through any human capability; you can do so only because you have the mind of Christ!
5. Think about it!
- a) We learned that it was by grace through faith that we were saved, but why? So we can recognized

that we are God's perfect fingerprint, able to do the work He prepared us to do.

- 1) "For **we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God **prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**"

Ephesians 2:10 NKJV

- b) So, since we are justified by the free gift of faith that came through grace, we are then called to access that grace to accomplish the things we were prepared to do!

- 1) "Therefore, **having been justified by faith**, we have peace with God **through our Lord Jesus Christ**, through whom also **we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2 NKJV

- c) Practice separating your thinking from the ways of the world, the mind of man, and work this out every day by washing your mind with God's word.

- 1) "And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:2 NKJV

- d) Then, when you have brought all human thinking into subjection, you will have tapped the mind of Christ. That is when you are permitted to hold the world accountable for its rebellion against God.
- 1) “casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ**, and being ready to punish all disobedience **when your obedience is fulfilled.**” II Corinthians 10:5-6 NKJV

C. For this reason...

- (1) Paul had a reason, what’s yours?
 - (a) Paul’s reason...
 - 1. “**For this reason** therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because **for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.**”” Acts 28:20 NKJV
 - a) Paul was willing to sacrifice everything to bring the truth of the two Gospels to the most influential city in the world at that time!
 - b) “***preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.***” Acts 28:31

c) Paul leaves Rome after approximately two years and comes back to Rome 5-7 years later at which time he is martyred. See Paul's final resting place in [Influence the Influencers](#).

(b) What about you?

1. "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and **always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you**, with meekness and fear;" I Peter 3:15 NKJV

a) The message of the cross was foolishness when I was in a condition that would have ended in my eternal demise, but then...

b) I was justified by grace through faith by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ

c) Now I have access to that grace and I use it to take every thought captive, to make them radically obedient to Christ.

d) So I can put on the mind of Christ and when "... ***beholding as in a mirror [I see] the glory of the Lord [staring back at me], [because I've been] transformed into [His] image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.***" II Corinthians 3:18

e) Which was exactly God's intention from the beginning when, "*God **created man in His own image**; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*" Genesis 1:27 NKJV

(c) All of creation is waiting...

1. "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages **for our glory**," I Corinthians 2:7 NKJV

2. "For the earnest expectation of the **creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God**. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; **because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**" Romans 8:19-21 NKJV

a) ...For mankind to come into God's intended glory, so creation can be restored to perfection.

b) That's the Gospel of the Kingdom... "**Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.**" Matthew 6:10 NKJV

Summary: I'M GOING HOME ROME!

1. Just like Paul testified in Jerusalem...

A. ...He must testify in Rome

(1) The Voyage to Rome Begins (Acts 27:1-8)

(a) A decision is made to start their way to Rome...

1. The Early Part of the Journey to Rome from Caesarea

a) Paul and other prisoners leave for Italy.

b) Julius, a centurion of the Augustan Regiment is in charge (he treats Paul kindly).

c) Preview:

1) Paul's relationship with this man plays a critical role later on.

2) After the ship gets stuck in the sand off the coast of Malta, Julius prevents Paul from being executed.

3) Just another indication that when God promises something, it will come to pass, even if He must move the heart of a pagan to make it so!

d) Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, was with them.

e) The intent is to sail close to the Asian coastline.

2. Stops along the way:

- a) First Stop: Sidon, just up the coast from Caesarea (Paul visits friends).
- b) From Sidon they sail north to the east of Cyprus and then due west between Cyprus and the mainland of Cilicia and Pamphylia.
- c) Second Stop: Myra, a city of Lycia (Julius finds their next ship).
- d) Third Stop: days later in Cnidus, the western tip of a peninsula in Asia.
- e) Fourth Stop: south to Salmone on the eastern side of Crete.
- f) Fifth Stop: they sail to the south side of Crete to Fair Havens near Lasea.

(2) Paul's Warning Ignored (**Acts 27:9-12**)

(a) Heeding the Voices of the Majority

1. Paul predicts there is danger ahead, unless...

- a) They have been traveling for a while and it is now the Fall.
- b) Point of Interest
 - 1) The fast here refers to Yom Kippur which is on the tenth day of the seventh month on the Hebrew Calendar (Tishri).

- 2) However, the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar corresponds to September on our calendar.
 - 3) Notice that “Sept” means seven, named because it corresponds to when it falls on the Hebrew calendar, as opposed to our Gregorian calendar, in which September is the ninth month.
- c) Paul has discernment about continuing their journey at that time of year.
 - d) He feels it will end in the destruction of the ship, and loss of cargo and lives, if they don’t stay in Fair Havens for the winter.
 - e) He advises Julius of such, but the centurion was more influenced by the one steering the ship and the owner persuades Julius to carry on.
 - f) They believe the harbor in Fair Havens is not safe for the winter, so the majority of those consulted overrule Paul’s recommendation.
 - g) Point of Interest
 - 1) The Bible warns us to not simply follow a side because they have the majority... *“You shall not follow a crowd (the majority) to do evil...”*
Exodus 23:2

- h) They decide to do whatever is necessary to head further west on the south side of Crete to Phoenix.
- i) That would give them safe harbor for the winter, in their opinion, and a clear opening toward Italy after that.

(3) Tempest-tossed (**Acts 27:13-38**)

(a) They should have heeded Paul's advice!

1. Things look favorable, so let's go! (Sometimes God gives you EXACTLY what you want—even when it is NOT what He wants.)
 - a) The conditions look ideal to set off from Fair Havens, so against Paul's advice they launch.
 - b) It does not take long before they are met with a blustery northeaster headwind, blowing from the direction of the island out to sea.
 - c) The ship is now blocked and cannot head back to shore against the wind, so they are forced to let the ship go to wherever the wind would take her.
 - d) They got some temporary protection from the island of Clauda, which permitted them to take the lifeboat on board.

- e) They then used the skiff tie downs to wrap under the boat to give it extra strength in case they struck ground.
 - f) It says they were nearing *Syrtis Sands* and they *struck sail* and were at the mercy of the sea and the wind.
- 1) **Syrtis Sands:** These are sandbars and shallows of on the Syrtis. The Syrtis was the name of two gulfs on the North African coast (modern Libya), feared greatly by sailors because of their shifting sandbars and treacherous shallows. The Syrtis here is the so-called Great Syrtis, toward Cyrenaica. It had a horrible reputation as a sailors' graveyard. The the Jewish historian Josephus says the name alone struck terror in those who heard it.
 - 2) **Struck sail:** Two thoughts here. One is that it means to lower the main sail, which is less likely as that would have surely already been done previously, as soon as the wind became violent. The other thought is that they let down the draganchor, the sea anchor used to slow

down the ship's speed, and that is mostly likely to what "struck sail" is referring.

2. They were reaching the limit the ship could handle (exceedingly tempest-tossed), from the battering of the wind and sea, so they decided to begin lightening the load.
 - a) On day three the ship's gear was tossed over.
 - 1) This is not the rigging or tackle related to the sail as that would mean they could not raise the sails again, which they do later as they approach Malta.
 - 2) It is obviously other non-essential gear.
 - b) Many days later, still in the dark, the storm continuously blocking all signs of light, the sailors become hopeless, had not eaten, and they are about to give up.
3. Paul stands up and says "I told you so; you should have heeded my warning! However, no one will die if you listen to me now."
 - a) An angel has affirmed that I am on this ship because I **MUST** appear in Rome, and all those with me will survive too.

- b) Look at everything that lines up to affirm Paul will get to Rome!
- 1) *I may find a way in the will of God to come to you in Rome.*
 - 2) *You must also bear witness at Rome.*
 - 3) *I appeal to Caesar [in Rome]. To Caesar [in Rome] you shall go!*
 - 4) *This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar [in Rome].*
 - 5) *And here: you must be brought before Caesar [in Rome]*
- c) I can promise you that if God says He will protect us, He will. But, it may not look the way you think it should.
- d) We might first get shipwrecked on a specific island for a specific reason.
- e) Fourteen days into this nightmarish storm, the men sense they are close to land.
- f) They take multiple depth readings and the water is getting shallower.
- g) Afraid they will smash on the rocks, they lower four rear anchors and pray for daylight.

- h) Some think they can escape in the lifeboat. They work to let it down, while pretending they are lowering the forward anchors from the bow.
- 4. Paul warns them that they will die if they leave the ship at that time.
 - a) *“Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.”*
 - 1) See Son of Jonah in ***Section B** below for an expanded prophetic lesson about staying in the boat.
 - 2) That is where you will see a summarized version of Son of Jonah found in its entirety in [All That Will Be Already Is](#).
 - 3) The Son of Jonah section can be found starting on Page 41 of the notes from that sermon.
 - 4) Watch the sermon for the full prophetic scope.
 - b) The soldiers comply and release the skiff into the ocean.
 - c) Paul knows these men have not eaten in two weeks and he pleads with them to eat.
 - d) You need food to survive, and I am telling you, if you stay in the boat you will live. Not a hair on your head will be harmed.

- e) Paul then breaks bread and offers gratitude to God (as is Jewish tradition and similar to communion), partakes himself, and then the men follow suit.
- f) There were 216 people on the ship and once they all had some food, they tossed the rest of the wheat into the sea.

B. *Son of Jonah: Things new and things old!

(1) Things NEW

(a) Incident #1: Y'shua and His Disciples get in the Boat.

(Matthew 8:23-25)

- 1. A great storm threatens the boat...
- 2. His disciples fear for their lives...
- 3. Y'shua is asleep!
- 4. There is more to this story in Matthew 8:26-27 where we see Y'shua's response (coming soon!)

(b) Incident #2: Y'shua tells His disciples to leave in a boat without Him so He can go pray. (Matthew 14:22-33)

- 1. The boat gets caught in a storm...
- 2. The waves and wind make it impossible for them to make any progress...
- 3. Y'shua walks out onto the water towards them (Mark 6:45-52 says He would have walked right past them had they not called out!)

4. Only Matthew's version includes the narrative of Peter getting out of the boat to walk on the water.
 5. Note: Y'shua does not ask Peter to leave the boat; it is Peter who asks to leave the boat, "*command me to come to You on the water.*"
 6. He does so, and as long as his eyes are on Y'shua (not fleeing from the Lord), things are good!
 7. But, take special note that the storm ends only when they get back into the boat.
 8. Prophetic moment to notice: Both Peter and Jonah left the boat! (More on this later in Matthew 14:22-33)
- (c) Simon Peter is often called the son of Jonah (John 1:42). Why?
1. Peter is called the Son of Jonah by Christ in three areas of Scripture. This is likely because Peter was constantly resisting the Lord. Peter had Jonah-like tendencies. Plus as you will see—Peter will hold the "Keys to the Kingdom!"
 - a) Prophetic connection: One became a fisher of men, the other became a food of fish!
- (d) Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am? (Matthew 16:13-19)

1. Peter knows His Lord (like Jonah)
 2. Keys to the Kingdom: Peter is the central figure in unlocking the mysteries of the kingdom and his connection to Jonah is the key!
- (e) But when Peter does not like the message... (Matthew 16:21-23)
1. Peter resists the Lord like Jonah
 2. He is obstinate to the point where he literally rebuked Y'shua!
- (f) Peter is told that he would deny the Lord three times... (Matthew 26:31-35)
1. And he does deny Y'shua... (Matthew 26:69-75)
- (g) Peter has a long list of Jonah-like tendencies...
1. No wonder he was called Simon Son of Jonah!
Follow me and I will make you a fisher of men! If you don't, I will make you a "man in a fish."
 - a. Peter won't stay in the boat!
 - b. Peter won't agree that Christ would suffer!
 - c. Peter won't believe he will deny Christ!
 - d. Peter won't preach to the gentiles (Acts 10).
- (h) All that and STILL Y'shua makes him the source of FOOD for his sheep! (John 21:15-19)
1. Peter is restored (like Jonah)

2. Peter must see himself as a source of food for God's sheep! Keep that in mind!
 3. Like Jonah was a source of food for a BIG FISH that carried him where he did not wish to go!
- (2) Things OLD (See: [Three Days and Three Nights: Turn the Boat Around](#))
- (a) Jonah is Obstinate (Jonah 1:1-3)
 1. Don't tell me how it's going to be!
 2. I will do things my way! (So Peter-like)
 - (b) Panic on the Hight Seas... (Jonah 1:4-9)
 1. The boat is caught in a storm.
 2. The boat is coming apart.
 3. The men are afraid for their lives...
 4. And the man they need to talk to is sleeping!
 - a) Jonah must have something to do with this.
 - b) What do you do and where do you come from?
 5. This is where they go sideways!
 - a) The men are in full panic mode.
 - b) They roll some dice to figure out the cause of their trouble!
 - c) Of course this is not by chance, but by design.
 - d) Yahweh wants to get Jonah's attention.
 6. Questions and Answers

a) Questions...

- 1) What is causing this trouble?
- 2) What is your occupation?
- 3) Where do you come from (country and nationality)?

b) Answers...

- 1) I am a Hebrew.
- 2) I fear Yahweh.
- 3) He is the God of heaven, the one who made the sea and the land...

(c) Jonah exits the boat! (Jonah 1:10-16)

1. Throw me out of the boat (Jonah says)...

- a) They would prefer not to, but they see no other option! Was there another option?
- b) What could have Jonah done instead?
- c) He could have stayed in the boat, but how?

(d) The Last words of Jonah Chapter One! (Jonah 1:17)

1. Jonah was swallowed by a fish and was in the belly of the fish **three days and three nights**.
2. He chose to be a man in a fish instead of a fisher of man!
3. Jonah was going to be carried where he did not wish to go—like Peter (John 21:18)!

(e) The sign of the Prophet Jonah! (Matthew 12:38-42)

1. Only one sign: Why is the sign of Jonah for “an evil and adulterous generation?”
2. Because Jonah was an obstinate disobedient prophet.
3. Nevertheless, God uses all things to His benefit.

(f) How is it possible you could miss something so obvious? (Matthew 16:1-4)

1. You can predict the weather, but you can’t count to three (three days **AND** three nights)!
2. Jonah was swallowed by a great fish and was “entombed” deep in its gut for three days and three nights—then he was released.
3. Y’shua will also be “entombed” three days and three nights before He is released.
4. Ironically multiple generations of Christians, even to the present day, cannot count three days and three nights in their death, burial and resurrection narrative.
5. The sign of Jonah has eluded them, even as it did those trapped in religionship in the first century—what Y’shua called an evil and adulterous generation!

C. Nothing new—just transformed!

(1) Let's integrate the new and old stories to create something "new" or "changed!"

(a) The Lord sent out a great wind on the sea...

1. "Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. **And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea [Jonah: and there was a mighty tempest on the sea.],** so that the boat was covered with the waves **[Luke 8:23 they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy.] [Jonah: the ship was about to be broken up.].** But He was asleep **[Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep.]** Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" **[Jonah: What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish.]** Matthew 8:23-25 NKJV

2. Jonah and Y'shua

1) Jonah's name means "Dove"

2) Y'shua said... "Behold, I send you out as **sheep in the midst of wolves.** Therefore be wise **as serpents and harmless as doves.**" Matthew 10:16 NKJV

3) As gentle as Jonah was supposed to be!

- 4) Both are in the boat as the storm rages.
- 5) Both are fast asleep.
- 6) Both are awakened by panicked passengers in fear for their lives.

(2) In the other stormy incident when Y'shua and Peter walked on the water in Matthew 14:22-33...

- (a) The disciples were straining against the wind and waves.
- (b) In contrast to Jonah hiding from the presence of the Lord, the Lord was walking into the presence of His disciples.
- (c) In contrast to the wind ceasing **when Jonah is tossed from the boat**, when Y'shua **gets into the boat** the wind ceases!
- (d) The underlying message here, as we look back at Jonah's story is this: If he would have STAYED IN THE BOAT and told the sailors to turn the boat around and head back toward Nineveh, the waters would have calmed instantly, like when Y'shua got into the boat. But he chose instead... *"Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you."*
- (e) And in Mark 6:48, as Y'shua walked on the water toward His fearful disciples, He would have passed

them by had they noticed Him. And that in Matthew 14:28, it is Peter who insists (in son of Jonah-like fashion) that he go into the water.

(f) It is easy to see the amazing faith part of Peter walking on water and what happens when you take your eyes off the Lord. And it is just as easy to miss the kingdom mystery—He should have stayed in the boat and calmed the sea himself!

(g) Why? Because in contrast to Jonah calming the water by being tossed in, something he **COULD HAVE WHOLLY AVOIDED**, the Kingdom Lesson is this! **HAVE FAITH AND STAY IN THE BOAT!** *“And when they **got into the boat**, the wind ceased.”*

(a) **“Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.”**

(h) Jonah should have stayed in the boat and instructed the navigators to “turn the boat around” and the storm would have ceased! Peter could have stayed in the boat and “had faith to rebuke the winds” and the storm would have ceased!

(a) **“Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.”**

(3) How do we know?

- (a) All we have to do is go back to our first incident with Y'shua sleeping in the boat and the raging sea...
- (b) Kingdom Mystery (as the New and the Old collide).
 - 1. Between these verses in the NEW...
 - a) *Lord, save us! We are perishing!" And...*
 - b) *He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.*
 - c) ...was all the OLD drama of Jonah
 - 2. In the NEW it's this simple....
 - a) Y'shua simply rebuked the wind and it was calm.
 - b) Peter could have stayed in the boat and rebuked the wind—he already saw it happen!
 - c) But, instead he wanted to enter the water—like Jonah who touched the water with his body and calmed the storm!
 - d) However, that was not his best choice (and not the only lesson)—it would been better to exercise faith, stay in the boat and simply turn it around!
 - e) When you take the New and add the Old, you get the right answer!
 - f) If you simply repeat the old, it's like going around the mountain all over again!

- g) **“Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.”**

(4) Shipwrecked on Malta (**Acts 27:39-44**)

(a) As Paul predicted...

1. “I promise you that God will protect us. But, we might first get shipwrecked on a specific island for a specific reason.”
 - a) Finally, there is daylight and they are near land, but they cannot recognize it.
 - b) However, there is a visible bay with a beach and they figure they can run the ship up onto the sand.
 - c) They cut loose the anchors, free the rudder, hoist the mainsail and aim for the shore.
 - 1) This is how we know that when they tossed the gear earlier, it was not referring to the rigs for the sail.
 - d) As they approach the shores of Malta they enter a place where the Adriatic and the Mediterranean meet and they are caught in the crosscurrents.
 - e) The front of the ship becomes stuck into the sand and the back of the ship begins to come apart from the crashing of the violent waves.

- f) At first the soldiers think to execute all the prisoners so none will escape.
- g) But Julius likes Paul and does not want him killed, so he prevents that plan.
 - 1) That is why it was essential that he found favor with Julius earlier.
- h) Instead, he commands all who can swim to jump overboard and head for shore, and those who cannot, to grab onto broken boards and float ashore.
 - i) They all survive just as Paul promised.

(5) Shipwrecked on Malta (**Acts 28:1-10**)

(a) From Murderer to Healer

1. Ministry on Malta

- a) Everyone aboard survives the shipwreck and finds themselves on Malta.
- b) The residents of the island are a kind people who invite them to warm themselves by a fire.
- c) Paul helps gather wood and while doing so is bit by a viper.
- d) The islanders are superstitious and assume Paul's misfortune indicates that he is some type of

escaped prisoner and this is true justice being served.

- e) However, Paul tosses the creature into the fire and acts like nothing happened. There are no ill-effects from the bite whatsoever.
 - f) All the natives think they'd witness Paul soon die from the poison, but when he didn't, instead of believing he was a criminal, they shift to thinking of him as some type of god.
2. Paul finds himself in the presence of Publius, the most important man on the island.
- a) Here again, like we saw in Caesarea when Paul found himself standing before a king and all the most prominent people in the city (See [Influence the Influencers](#) Acts 25:23-26:1)
 - b) Publius hosts them for three days on his estate, and when Paul discovers that the man's father lay dying, he uses the opportunity to heal the man as a testimony.
 - c) This opens access to every other sick person on Malta once they hear the story, and all the sick come to Paul and are healed.

- d) Paul becomes beloved and respected. This leads to the citizens of Malta providing everything they need for the remainder of their journey to Rome.

Summary: WHAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF

2. What happens when you stay in the boat?

A. Like in Jerusalem, Paul testifies in Rome

(1) Arrival in Rome (Acts 28:11-16)

(a) The final leg of the journey...

1. Favor in Rome

- a) Paul and company stay just over three months on Malta and are able to leave on an Alexandrian ship, which had wintered there for safe-harbor.
- b) They make three stops before remaining on the mainland of Italy.
 - 1) First is Syracuse on the southeastern shore of Sicily.
 - 2) Then to Rhegium, which is on the western tip of the boot of Italy.
 - 3) Finally, a day later they arrive in Puteoli up the western side of Italy, approximately 140 miles southeast of Rome.

- c) Paul is met by some fellow Christians and stays with them for seven days.
- d) Other believers come to meet them as they journeyed northwest toward Rome and they meet at Appii Forum and Three Inns (Taverns).
 - 1) This is a small town located on the main road between cities which had accommodations for travelers to rest and be refreshed before they continue their journey.
 - 2) In this case they were approximately 40 miles southeast of Rome.
- e) Paul is grateful for the greeting and respite before arriving in Rome.
- f) In Rome, the centurion (Julius) assigned to deliver Paul to Caesar, hands him over to captain of the guard.
 - 1) This is likely the head of the guards of whom he writes in Philippians...
- g) He is not kept in nasty prison, but instead finds favor and lives alone in a small dwelling under watch of the palace guard.

(2) Paul's Ministry at Rome (**Acts 28:17-31**)

- (a) A Dream Come True!

1. What Paul has been waiting for...
 - a) ***"I long to see you..."***
 - b) Three days after his arrival in Rome, Paul gathers the local Jewish leaders to bring them up to speed about why he is in Rome.
2. This is what he tells them...
 - a) First of all, I am not here because of any transgression against the people of Israel nor our laws and customs.
 - b) I was imprisoned in Jerusalem by aggressive Jews who were offended by my faith in Y'shua as the Jewish Messiah (more about that in a minute!).
 - c) I was handed off to the Roman legal system, really because those Jews were beating me without cause and a Roman commander (Claudius Lysias) stepped in to stop it. (See Acts 21:31-33 and [Forgiven... yet Liable](#))
 - d) The Roman commander heard my case and found me innocent, but later became aware that a request from the Jewish leaders that he allow them to conduct further questioning was just a plot to kill me during transport.

- e) As a response he sent me over to Governor Felix in Caesarea. That led to a series of opportunities to preach before two governors, a king, and an auditorium full of prominent people.
- 3. You can learn about it in Acts 24-27 and in [Influence the Influencers](#), but the short of it is this...
 - a) I had to appeal to Caesar in Rome for three main reasons:
 - 1) The first is because, for the longest time, I was desperate to get to Rome by any means possible (See Romans 1:8-15).
 - a. To impart to you some spiritual gift...
 - b. So that you may be established...
 - c. So that I might have some fruit among you...
 - d. To preach the gospel to you who are in Rome!
 - 2) Then God told me in Acts 23:11 that I would wind up here when He revealed, *“as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome.”*
 - 3) And last, as crazy as it sounds, I had such a distrust for the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem that when Governor Festus in Caesarea asked me if I’d like

to go back to Jerusalem to be judged by the Jewish Courts (Acts 25:9), I told him I'd rather be judged by Nero, the pagan leader of Rome.

(Acts 25:10-12). (See [Influence the Influencers](#))

- b) As such, I exercised my rights as a Roman citizen and appealed my case to Caesar, so here I am, living in the midst of the prophecy over my life.
 - c) And let's be clear: I am not here to say anything subversive against our the Jewish people or Israel to Caesar—just to speak the truth.
 - d) And this is precisely why I want to tell all you Jews about my incarceration. It all came to pass because I have been preaching about the very things our people **have been hoping for** over many generations.
4. Interestingly, the Jews in Jerusalem have heard nothing bad of Paul.
- a) All they know is that they have heard bad things about the “Sect” Paul is promoting (the Way, Nazarenes, Christians).
5. They all show up at Paul's place and he begins to explain about the kingdom of God.

- a) Some come to the faith as Paul uses the Law of Moses and the Prophets to show them that Y'shua is indeed the long-awaited Messiah of Israel.
 - b) Others ignore the facts and remain unbelievers.
 - c) Paul quotes from ***Isaiah 6:9-10** to explain the separation between the two groups.
 - 1) Some just won't get it no matter what!
 - 2) They have hard hearts.
 - 3) If they did believe God would heal them!
 - 4) *** Y'shua refers to Isaiah 6:9-10** within the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-23), in verse 14.
 - 5) We also see Isaiah 6:9-10 referred to in Luke 8:10; Mark 4:12; John 12:40; and by Paul in Romans 11:8
 - d) That's why I went to the Gentiles. (This fact is what always makes the non-believing Jews most angry.)
6. Paul spends two years ministering in Rome.
- a) He dwells in a rented house and is able to minister the TWO GOSPELS to all who come to him.
 - 1) He teaches about the kingdom of God (the Gospel of the Kingdom), and things concerning the reality that Y'shua is the long-awaited Savior

of Israel (the Gospel of Salvation), and no one prevents him.

Summary: THE TWO GOSPELS

3. When you stay in the boat the kingdom comes...

A. Evidence that demands a verdict...

(1) The Gospel of the Kingdom

(a) Stay in the Boat!

1. Endure to the end, don't get out of the boat and participate in the most exciting events the world will ever experience!
2. The gospel of the kingdom preached in all the world!
3. And then the end! (See [Passover](#) teaching to get a full understanding what the "end" means.)

(2) Recognizing Two Gospels

(a) This AND That!

1. Faith in Y'shua brings eternal salvation.
2. That empowers God's children to live in radical-grace-empowered-faith-based to God. That is what will bring the kingdom of heaven to earth!

(3) How do we get from here to there?

(a) Grace!

1. By GRACE through FAITH you are saved!

2. By FAITH through GRACE you live your life!

B. Two Gospels perfectly summarized in 373 words (I Cor. 2)

(1) **One:** The Gospel of Salvation (**I Corinthians 2:1-5**)

(a) Christ Crucified!

1. The Gospel of Salvation is all God!

- a) It's a simple message that will make absolutely no sense if the power of God has not touched someone's heart first.
- b) There is really nothing to tell anyone, who has not been born again, anything more complicated than Jesus Christ (Y'shua the Messiah) is the Son of God and He died for your sins.
- c) And that message will seem like absolute lunacy to the unredeemed heart. It's an absurd idea that has no logic attached to it and that is why it can only be received by grace through faith.
- d) Man does not become born-again because he is convinced to repeat-after-me some words of confession. Man is born-again by the supernatural touch of God FIRST and he confesses as a RESULT of his born-again encounter.
- e) As such, the message of the cross should not be presented in any fancy way with any brilliant

demonstration of speaking skills or inspirational oration as to convince anyone of anything.

- f) If the message of the Gospel of Salvation is presented as if it's a motivational message coming from a polished public speaker, then it will be difficult to distinguish if the response is to the skills of men or the power of God.
- g) That is why church buildings are filled with cheering fans, excited by concert music and polished self-help messages from professional speakers, with the smoke and lights cherry on top.
- h) And that is why church buildings are filled with myriads of people who claim to be Christians, believe they are Christians, but have never had a true encounter with Christ!

2. Think about it!

- a) The idea that a man was nailed to a cross and somehow that can save us from eternal damnation is science fiction to the logical mind!
- b) Salvation can only come because God's power touches a man's heart first and infuses him with the faith to believe something that would make no sense otherwise. It's a gift, not something earned in

any way whatsoever; including even taking credit for your own confession.

- c) The entire weight of salvation is carried by Christ and depends on His righteousness alone.

(2) **Two:** The Gospel of the Kingdom (**I Corinthians 2:6-16**)

(a) The Mind of Christ

1. However, the Gospel of the Kingdom is God not working alone, but with man. (*HIP: Human Initiative Partners*)
 - a) Something happens AFTER Christ crucified becomes our reality. It's time to grow up!
 - b) The mature Christian has all sorts of opportunities.
 - c) We have access to the once hidden wisdom of God, so we can come into the glory God planned for us.
 - d) Man's glorious end has been prepared from the beginning, for those who love Him.
 - e) But only after we are born again can we understand this glorious outcome through His Spirit.
 - f) The Holy Spirit gives us access to the deepest mysteries of God.
2. This is how it works.

- a) Unredeemed man has a human spirit who knows everything about man.
 - b) The redeemed man has access to the Holy Spirit who now can understand the things of God.
 - c) When you are born again, you are not given another version of the human spirit, but the Spirit who is from God. Why?
 - d) So we can understand what God has made available to those who are filled with His Spirit.
 - e) This is what Paul is teaching, but not to the unbeliever. Again, the only thing they need to hear is Christ crucified.
3. And Paul is not accessing the wisdom of man to teach the wisdom of God. He is accessing the Holy Spirit, so we can understand spiritual matters.
- a) Why? The human spirit cannot understand the Spirit of God; it's complete foolishness to him.
 - b) God's heart and plan for us can only be discerned by the Holy Spirit.
 - c) That is like tapping the mind of God; and if that seems intimidating, think of it this way.

- d) You are not doing so through any human capability; you can do so only because you have the mind of Christ!

4. Think about it!

- a) We learned that it was by grace through faith that we were saved, but why? So we can recognize that we are God's perfect fingerprint, able to do the work He prepared us to do.
- b) So, since we are justified by the free gift of faith that came through grace, we are then called to access that grace to accomplish the things we were prepared to do!
- c) Practice separating your thinking from the ways of the world, the mind of man, and work this out every day by washing your mind with God's word.
- d) Then, when you have brought all human thinking into subjection, you will have tapped the mind of Christ. That is when you are permitted to hold the world accountable for its rebellion against God.

C. For this reason...

- (1) Paul had a reason, what's yours?
 - (a) Paul's reason...

1. Paul was willing to sacrifice everything to bring the truth of the two Gospels to the most influential city in the world at that time!
 2. Paul leaves Rome after approximately two years and comes back to Rome 5-7 years later at which time he is martyred. See Paul's final resting place in [Influence the Influencers](#).
- (b) What about you?
1. The message of the cross was foolishness when I was in a condition that would have ended in my eternal demise, but then...
 2. I was justified by grace through faith by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ
 3. Now I have access to that grace and I use it to take every thought captive, to make them radically obedient to Christ.
 4. So I can put on the mind of Christ and when "...
beholding as in a mirror [I see] the glory of the Lord [staring back at me], [because I've been] transformed into [His] image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

5. Which was exactly God's intention from the beginning when, "*God **created man in His own image.***"

(c) All of creation is waiting...

1. ...For mankind to come into God's intended glory, so creation can be restored to perfection.
2. That's the Gospel of the Kingdom...

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. How did the leader of the prisoner transport team treat Paul in Acts 27:1-8?

A. Why is his view of Paul critical later in the journey to Rome?
(Hint: Acts 27:39-44)

2. In Acts 27:9-12 Paul warns those leading the trip that they should stay in Fair Havens for the winter.

- A. What is his concern and what is their response?
- B. Whose advice is followed and why?
- C. How might Exodus 23:2 have affected their choice?

3. The result of their choice is disastrous in Acts 27:13-38.

- A. What is Paul told will be the outcome and by whom?
- B. How does Paul's assurance relate to the following passages?
(See: Romans 1:9-10; Acts 23:11; 25:11-12; 26:32)

- C. How might Acts 27:31 relate prophetically to the stormy encounters of Matthew 8:23-25; 14:22-33; and Jonah 1?
 - D. What do you think would have happened if Peter and Jonah were privy to Paul's advice in Acts 27:31 and followed it?
- 4. In Acts 27:39-44, they find themselves shipwrecked off the coast of Malta and the soldiers want to kill all the prisoners.**
- A. Who prevents them and why?
 - B. How does this help fulfill prophecy? (See: Acts 23:11; 27:24)
- 5. In Acts 28:1-10 everyone on board is safe on the Island.**
- A. How are they treated by the residents?
 - B. What strange incident takes place with Paul as he gathers wood for the fire?
 - C. What do the people of Malta initially think? Ultimately think?
 - D. How does Paul use the situation to touch the whole island?
 - E. How does Paul's influence on Publius remind you of Acts 25:23-26:1?
- 6. Paul finally arrives in Rome in Acts 28:11-16.**
- A. Describe the final leg of his journey?
 - B. When he arrives in Rome, how is he treated?
 - C. How might his interaction with palace guard be related to Philippians 1:12-14?
- 7. How might we say Acts 28:17-31 is a dream come true when also considering Romans 1:11-12?**

- A. What do the non-believing Jews know about Paul prior to meeting him?
- B. What does he do to prove Y'shua is the Messiah and what is the effect?
- C. Why is Paul's method ironic considering the very charges that landed him in Rome?

8. In the final verse of Acts 28, what is Paul preaching?

- A. How is it similar the great commission in Matthew 28:18-20?
- B. How is it similar to Revelation 14:12?

9. There are clearly two distinct Gospels in Paul's message.

- A. Use Romans 5:1-2 to elaborate on how those messages work together. (Hint: Ephesians 2:8-10; II Peter 1:1-3)
- B. How might I Corinthians 2:1-5 relate to one Gospel and I Corinthians 2:6-16 relate to the other Gospel?

10. Connect the following by writing a short logic statement about each. (Help: sermon notes pages 58-71)

- A. I Corinthians 2:1-5 to I Corinthians 1:18 and Ephesians 2:8-9
- B. I Corinthians 2:6-16 to Ephesians 2:10
- C. Romans 5:1-2 to Ephesians 2:8-10
- D. Acts 28:20 to I Peter 3:15
- E. II Corinthians 3:18 to Genesis 1:27
- F. I Corinthians 2:7 to Romans 8:19-21