

Acts to Revelation
The World of the First Christians

Session 14 – A Final Journey to Rome

Session Summary – After three months on Malta, Paul finally arrived in Rome, where Julius turned him over to the Emperor’s Praetorian Guard. We will travel the Appian Way to the “Eternal City” to investigate Paul’s two years of ministry there while under house arrest. Dave will enjoy some pizza while exploring ancient ruins such as the Pantheon and the Roman Forum. The Apostle Peter also ended up in Rome later in his life, where he wrote his letters and acted as the source for Mark’s Gospel. We will go to the Trastevere section of Rome to examine Peter’s final years.

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of every one who believes, first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.” – Romans 1:16

The Praetorian Guard. According to Acts 28, the Centurion Julius gave custody of Paul to the “Chief of the soldiers” who was probably the commander of the Praetorian Guard. This is consistent with what is known from Roman history, since the Praetorian Guard was in charge of prisoners sent to Rome from the outside provinces. Because Paul was put under the watch of the Praetorian Guard, his rented quarters were probably near their fortress and barracks. The barracks, or *Castra Praetoria*, were constructed in 23AD, allowing the guard to be centralized in one location. It was a massive fortress on the edge of the city, and some of the ruins are still visible there today.

Scripture Reading: Acts 28:11-31, Romans, 1st & 2nd Peter

Discussion Questions:

1. When was the city of Rome first established? According to legend, who was the city named after?
2. When Paul arrived in Rome, Christians traveled from all around to see him. Name the two towns mentioned in the Book of Acts where they came from.
3. What New Testament letters did Paul write during his time in Rome?
4. Who were the Praetorians?
5. Peter acted as the eyewitness source for which Gospel in the New Testament?

Scripture for Next Week: Hebrews