

## **Paul in Rome**

Acts 28:17-31

by Don Falkos

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Paul met with the Jewish leaders in Rome. He told them, "My brothers, I have done nothing against our people or our ancient traditions. Yet the Jews in Jerusalem arrested me and handed me over to the Romans, demanding I be put to death. The Romans put me on trial but found I wasn't guilty of any crime. Still the Judeans kept pushing, forcing me to appeal to Caesar, which has brought me to Rome. I have invited you here today to explain I am in chains because I believe the hope of Israel, the Messiah, has already come."

They replied, "We haven't heard anything against you personally. However, we have heard many negative things about this movement, this Christian sect you're involved in. But we'll withhold judgment until we hear what you have to say about it."

They agreed on a date and time; a large number of people came to Paul's home. All day long he talked to them about the Kingdom of God. Using the Law of Moses and the books of the prophets, he tried to persuade them about Jesus. Some believed; others did not. They argued amongst themselves for quite some time, and as they were leaving, Paul had one final word for them. "The prophet Isaiah said you would not understand; that you would not turn to the Lord to be healed. I want you to know salvation has also been offered to the Gentiles, and they will accept it."

Paul lived in Rome for two years at his own expense. Many people visited him. He boldly proclaimed the Kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ. And no one tried to stop him.