

RUSSELL SANDERS

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THE APOSTLE PAUL – LESSON 56

THE JOURNEY TO ROME – PART 10

UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN ROME

Paul and his fellow travelers finally arrive in Rome. The centurion delivered all the other prisoners to the captain of the guard to be put in prison, but not Paul. (Acts 28:16-31.)

Paul and his party were allowed to rent their own house. A guard was posted to keep watch over him in this house arrest. We know Aristarcus and Luke were with him as they journeyed the entire trip with him. We know also that Tychicus, Timothy, John Mark, Jesus Justus, Epaphras, and Demas abode with him in Rome. He had plenty of visitors also from the brethren in and around Rome. He had the favor of liberty that no other “prisoner” was given.

After three days, Paul called together the chief leaders of the Jews. He told them why he had been bound and sent to Rome. They knew this “sect” of Followers of the Way was spoken ill against almost everywhere, but they desired to hear Paul’s thoughts about it.

They appointed a day to hear him. Many came to his house. Paul expounded the gospel to them the whole day long. Some believed and some did not. The Jews departed at the end of that day reasoning things out among themselves.

Paul remained under house arrest in Rome for over two years (61-64 A.D.) preaching the Kingdom of God and teaching the new believers.

It was during these 2-1/2 years in prison, that he wrote the epistles to the Colossians, Ephesians, and Philippians. It was a busy and proficient period of time.