

RUSSELL SANDERS

8-22-2021

THE APOSTLE PAUL – LESSON 52

THE JOURNEY TO ROME – PART 6

JOURNEY BY SEA BEGINS

Festus (or Agrippa) determined to send Paul to Italy (Rome) from Caesarea by ship. Aristarchus, Luke, and possibly others accompanied Paul on the trip. The prisoner was put under the charge of the centurion Julius of Caesar Augustus.

This “Augustus” is better known to us today as the evil Nero. Upon ascending to the inherited position of Caesar at the age of seventeen, he took the name Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus. Paul would encounter Nero more than once in his life.

After a day of sailing on a ship from Adramyttium, they stopped a little north for a layover at Sidon. Julius favored the prisoner Paul to go into the city to visit with his friends, a refreshing.

They then sailed past the Island of Cyprus and past the Asia Minor provinces of Cilicia and Pamphylia to stop at Myra in the province of Lycia.

At Myra, Julius found a ship bound for Italy and transferred the load of several prisoners to that Alexandrian ship. They left Asia Minor (Myra) and headed toward the island of Crete, but difficult sailing caused a brief stop at Cnidus before heading for Crete. The sailing remained difficult with a contrary wind. They finally arrived in Crete at Fair Havens. They spent considerable time there trying to figure out their next step. Winter was approaching which meant sailing would be dangerous. Paul warned them of the danger in sailing at this time. It would be costly to the merchandise and would put everyone’s lives in danger. However, the owner/master of the ship wanted to sail because Crete (Fair Havens) did not have good winter accommodation. The centurion agreed with the owner, so they set sail anyway.

The fact that they might have even considered what Paul said showed the strong influence of his personality.