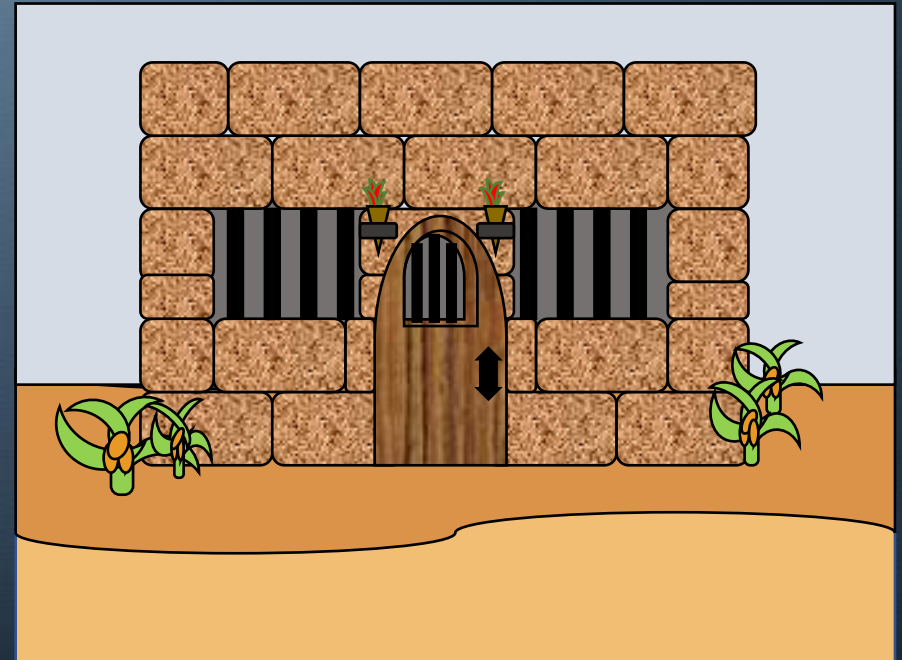


Acts 22-28



Trial and Imprisonment of Paul

Acts 23-26



Trusting in Those Around You

Whom would you trust to do the following and why?

Choose what you wear



Always keep their promises



Choose where you live



Stay with you in difficult times



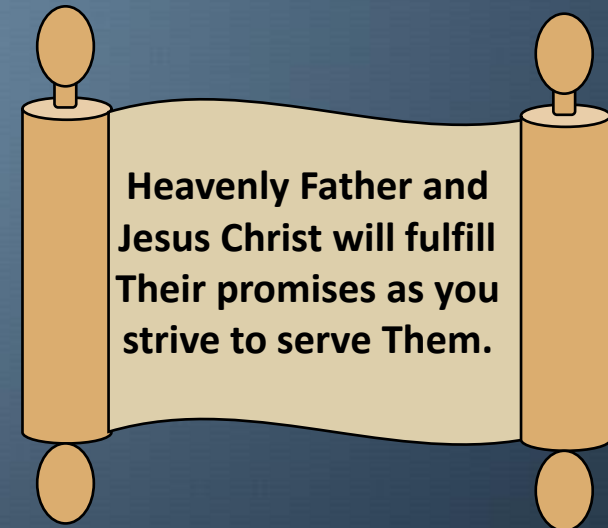
How does it help you to have people in your life that you can trust?

Trusting in Heavenly Father and Jesus

Do you believe They will keep Their promises to you?

Do you believe They will be with you during difficult times?

Would you trust Them enough to let Them guide you each day?



Previously...

After his third missionary journey, Paul returned to Jerusalem to testify of Christ.

He was dragged from the temple by a group of Jews who wanted to kill him but was rescued by Roman soldiers.

He was taken to the steps of the Antonia Fortress and allowed to speak.

Paul protested that he was a Roman citizen and was therefore protected from examination by torture.



Paul testified about his conversion to Jesus Christ and of the Savior's instruction to preach to the Gentiles. The Jews were again enraged, and Paul was sent back to the Antonia Fortress for his safety.

Conversion Story of Paul

How does Paul describe his initial vision?	Acts 22:6-9
What was Paul instructed to do?	Acts 22:10-11
Whom did Paul meet in Damascus, and what did Paul regain?	Acts 22:12-13
What did Ananias prophesy about Paul?	Acts 22:14-15
How did Paul show his faith in Jesus Christ?	Acts 9:18; Acts 22:16

“True conversion is more than merely having a knowledge of gospel principles and implies even more than just having a testimony of those principles. It is possible to have a testimony of the gospel without living it. Being truly converted means we are acting upon what we believe. ...

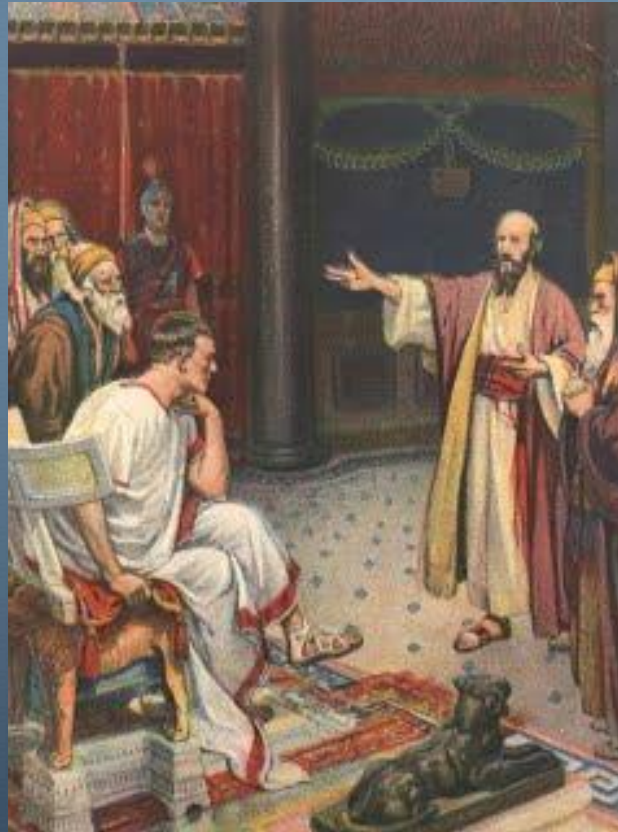
“... Conversion comes as we act upon the righteous principles we learn in our homes and in the classroom. Conversion comes as we live pure and virtuous lives and enjoy the companionship of the Holy Ghost.”



Brought Before Council

When Paul was brought before the Jewish council, the high priest ordered that Paul be struck in the face.

This violated Jewish law, which protected accused persons from being punished until found guilty.



Paul's angry response was not purposefully disrespectful to the high priest; he simply failed to recognize the high priest, perhaps because he had been away from Jerusalem for so long.

When he realized that he had reviled the high priest, Paul immediately expressed deference to the office, if not the man.

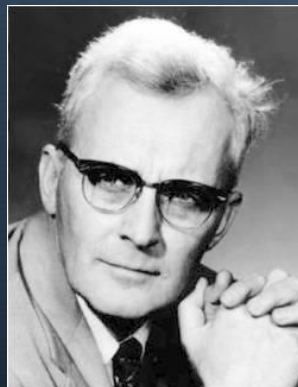
Realizing that the council was composed of two factions—the Pharisees and the Sadducees—Paul cleverly turned the members of the council against one another by declaring that he was a Pharisee and believed in the Resurrection. The Pharisees on the council then defended Paul against the Sadducees, who did not believe in the Resurrection.

A Visit From the Lord

Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.

Why send him to the people and the gentiles if he has to be delivered from them?

'To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God'



"That was his mission: He had to go down into the gutter if he was to get anybody out of it! And you can be sure that Satan is not going to relinquish his power over anybody without a fight!"

Conspiracy to Kill

A group of Jews “bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.”



Secret combinations work under a cloak of secrecy and are characterized by formal oath making, threats of violence (including murder) and plunder, and the seeking of gain and power



...yea, their secret abominations have been brought out of darkness and made known unto us.

And now, my son, I command you that ye retain all their oaths, and their covenants, and their agreements in their secret abominations; yea, and all their signs and their wonders ye shall keep from this people, that they know them not, lest peradventure they should fall into darkness also and be destroyed. Alma 37:26-27

**See Also: Helaman 6:16-31
And Ether 8:13-26**

Paul Before Felix



Paul's nephew heard of the secret plot to kill Paul and quickly told Paul, who sent him to inform the Roman officers. The chief captain, knowing that Paul was a Roman citizen, made arrangements to have Paul escorted by a contingent of soldiers to Caesarea to appear at a trial before the Roman governor Felix.



Paul declared his innocence before the Roman governor Felix. Although convinced of Paul's innocence, Felix continued to keep Paul under house arrest for two years. Festus replaced Felix as the Roman governor of Judea.

Tertullus—The Lawyer

Several Jewish priests from Jerusalem attended Paul's trial in Caesarea, and they hired Tertullus, a Roman lawyer and orator, to convince Felix of Paul's alleged wrongdoings.



The Charges against Paul:

Creating disturbances among the Romans throughout the empire, an offence against the Roman government.

Paul was a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes; disturbed the Jews in the exercise of their religion, guaranteed by the state; introduced new gods, a thing prohibited by the Romans.

Paul attempted to profane the temple, a crime which the Jews were permitted to punish.



It is generally assumed that Tertullus was himself a Hellenistic Jew, though he could have been a Gentile. (3)

No Credible Witnesses

Even though 12 days had passed since he was accused, no credible witnesses had been found to testify against him.

He also affirmed his loyalty to God and mentioned that he had come to Jerusalem to deliver alms, showing that his purpose was to relieve suffering and not to incite rebellion.



Appealing to Caesar



"Under Roman law, each citizen accused of crime had the right and privilege of being heard before the imperial seat. Authorities on Roman law assert that local magistrates had discretionary power where appeal was concerned.

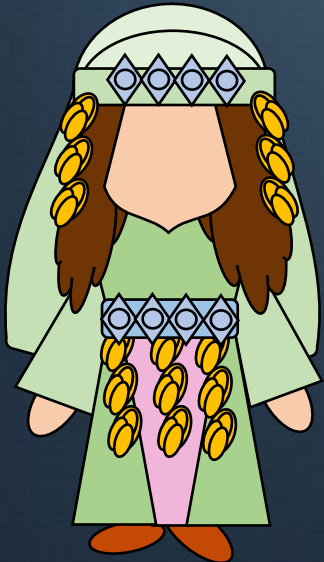
They could decide if the case warranted such a privilege where guilt was obvious and the crime of such enormity that a delay would thwart true justice."



King Agrippa II

King Herod Agrippa, who ruled an area located northeast of the Sea of Galilee, visited Festus and desired to hear Paul's case.

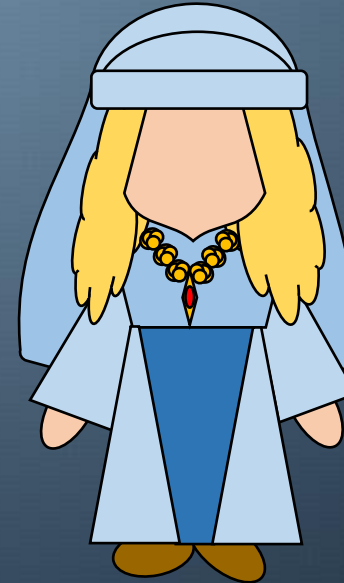
Son of Herod Agrippa I



Bernice--sister



Drusilla--sister



Wife of Felix



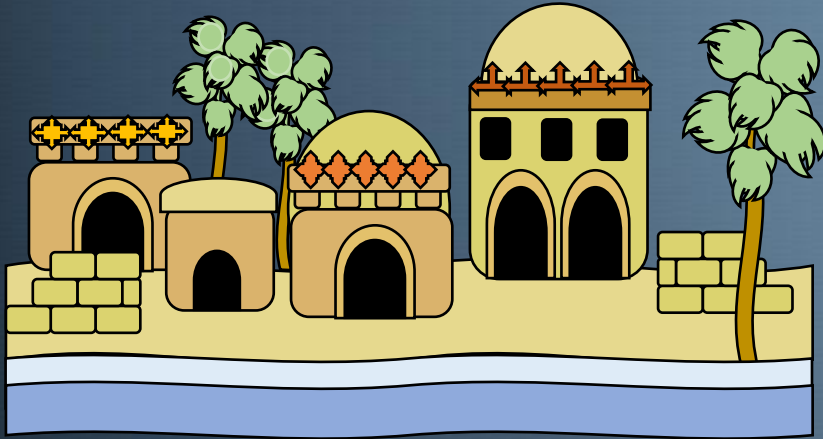


Felix--Procurator (governor) of Judaea at the time of Paul's arrest by Roman military authorities. He investigated the case and heard Paul speak in his own defense but put off giving any decision. He hoped Paul would have offered him a bribe, but when there was no bribe offered he left Paul still in prison.



Festus--Took Felix's place as governor of Judaea. Finding Paul in prison at Caesarea, he proposed to try him in Jerusalem. To avoid such a trial, Paul appealed to Caesar. While waiting for an opportunity to send Paul to Rome, Festus was visited by Herod Agrippa. Paul was brought before them and made a speech in his own defense. Festus died 2 years after his appointment to Judaea.

Caesarea



An important seaport town of Palestine, on the main road from Tyre to Egypt, 33 miles north of Joppa, and about 60 miles from Jerusalem.

It was the official residence of Festus, Felix, and other Roman procurators of Judaea.



Ruins



Typical Roman Amphitheater

“The Way”

Often used to refer to Christianity; it denotes the path or course of Christians.

Central to Christian belief is the doctrine that Jesus Christ is “the way” of salvation and that through Him all will be resurrected.

Paul declared that the real reason the Jews opposed him was his belief in the Resurrection.

However, he asserted that his message of the Resurrection was not heresy but was identical to the long-held hope of the Jewish nation.

*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
John 14:6*



Simon Dewey

Baring Testimony or to Testify

Sharing personal beliefs of spiritual knowledge as given by the Holy Ghost.

The feeling power of sharing

The feeling power of sharing with others

The feeling power of sharing with others about your beliefs



Testimony to King Agrippa

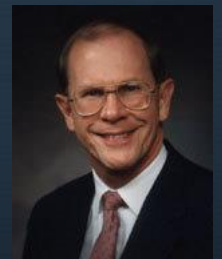


"There are things we can do that will help us to consistently have the Spirit of the Lord in our homes, especially during scripture reading time.

And if we have that Spirit, both the parents and children can be touched, blessed, and changed-and each family member can be strengthened every day we read the words of the Lord together...

If you use spiritual examples from your own life, you will invite the Spirit into your home and will help bring about the conversion of all present.

"We see a classic example of this principle-and its power-in Paul's testimony to King Agrippa."



Testimony of Paul

Paul was bound in chains after his arrest in Jerusalem. He was permitted to speak to the people while standing outside the Antonia Fortress.



Simon H. Vedder



Paul was arrested outside the temple in Jerusalem and was then brought before Jewish leaders. He was questioned by these Jewish leaders and imprisoned. The Roman captain who had arrested Paul learned of a conspiracy among a band of Jews to kill Paul, so he sent Paul to Caesarea. At Caesarea, Paul was permitted to speak in his own defense before the Roman governor Felix.

After two years of imprisonment, Paul appeared before the new governor and demanded the opportunity to testify before Caesar. King Agrippa arranged to hear Paul's witness before his journey to Rome.



What specific things stood out to you about Paul's testimony of Jesus Christ and His gospel?

What impressed you about Paul in these verses?

Why do you believe Paul had the courage and strength to testify of Christ in such trying situations?

Why do you think it's important to share testimony even when others might reject it?





Define Mercy Lithuania

In whatever ways seem natural and normal to you, share with people why Jesus Christ and His Church are important to you. ...

Understand that it's not your job to convert people.

That is the role of the Holy Ghost.

Your role is to share what is in your heart and live consistent with your beliefs.

(8)



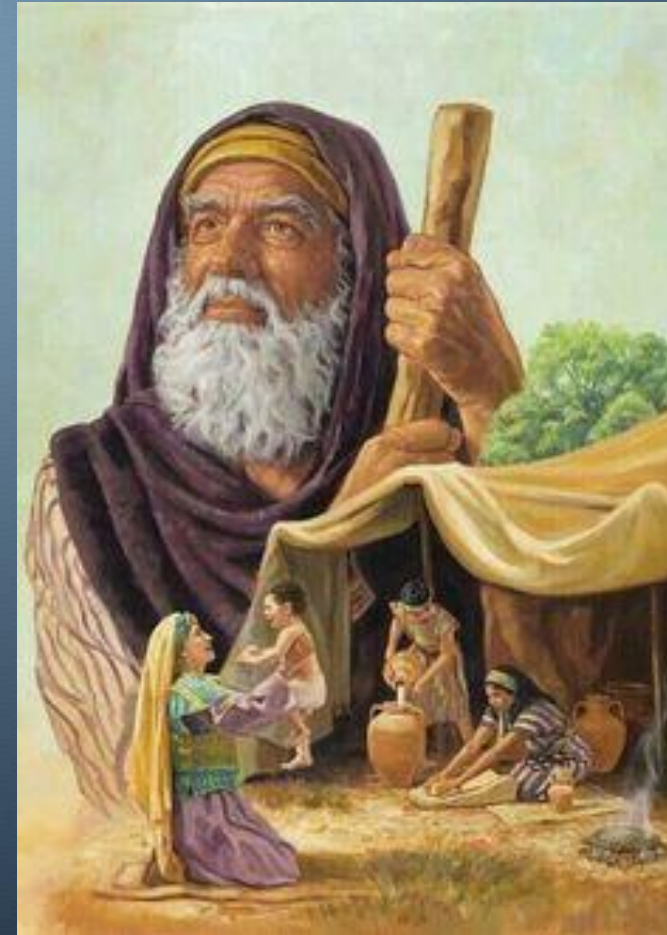
Inheritance

An entrance into the celestial kingdom of God

"An eternal inheritance in an eternal promised land was the hope of Israel.

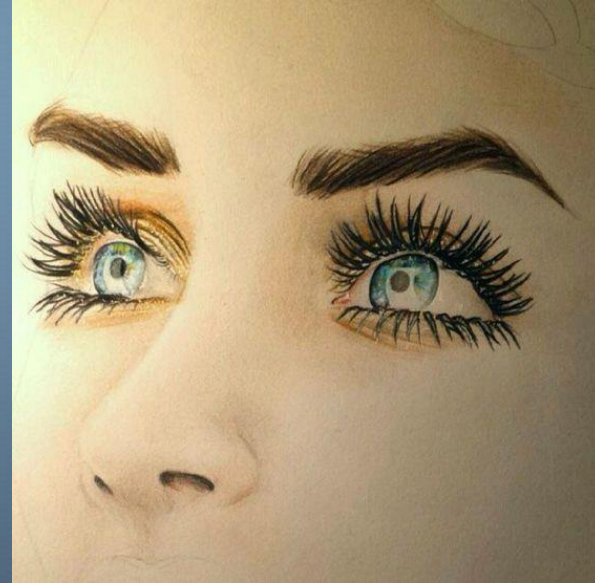
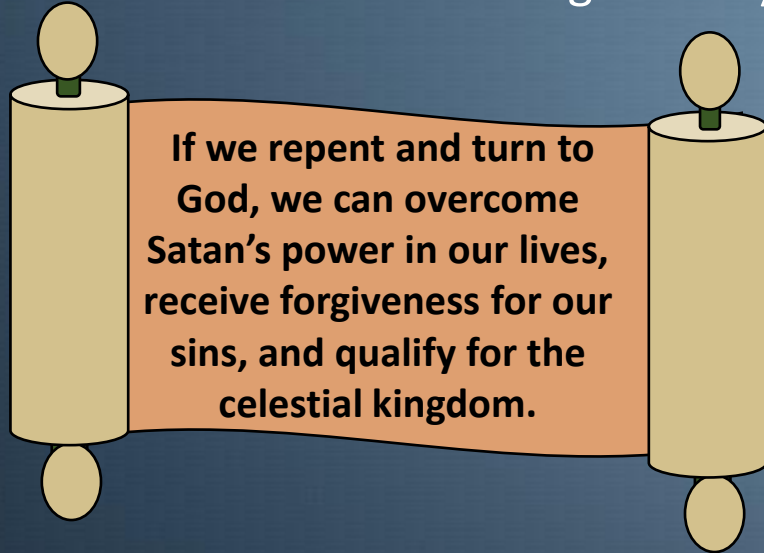
Abraham, Israel's father, was promised the land of Canaan for himself and his posterity forever, but during his lifetime Abraham never actually received his inheritance.

The hope of Israel was that Abraham and his posterity would yet enter into their promised inheritance."



Overcoming Satan's Power

Live righteously in order to demonstrate you have truly repented.



“When we sin, we turn away from God. When we repent, we turn back toward God.

“The invitation to repent is rarely a voice of chastisement but rather a loving appeal to turn around and to ‘re-turn’ toward God.

It is the beckoning of a loving Father and His Only Begotten Son to be more than we are, to reach up to a higher way of life, to change, and to feel the happiness of keeping the commandments.”

Being Committed

“Two young brothers stood atop a small cliff that overlooked the pristine waters of a blue lake. This was a popular diving spot, and the brothers had often talked about making the jump—something they had seen others do.



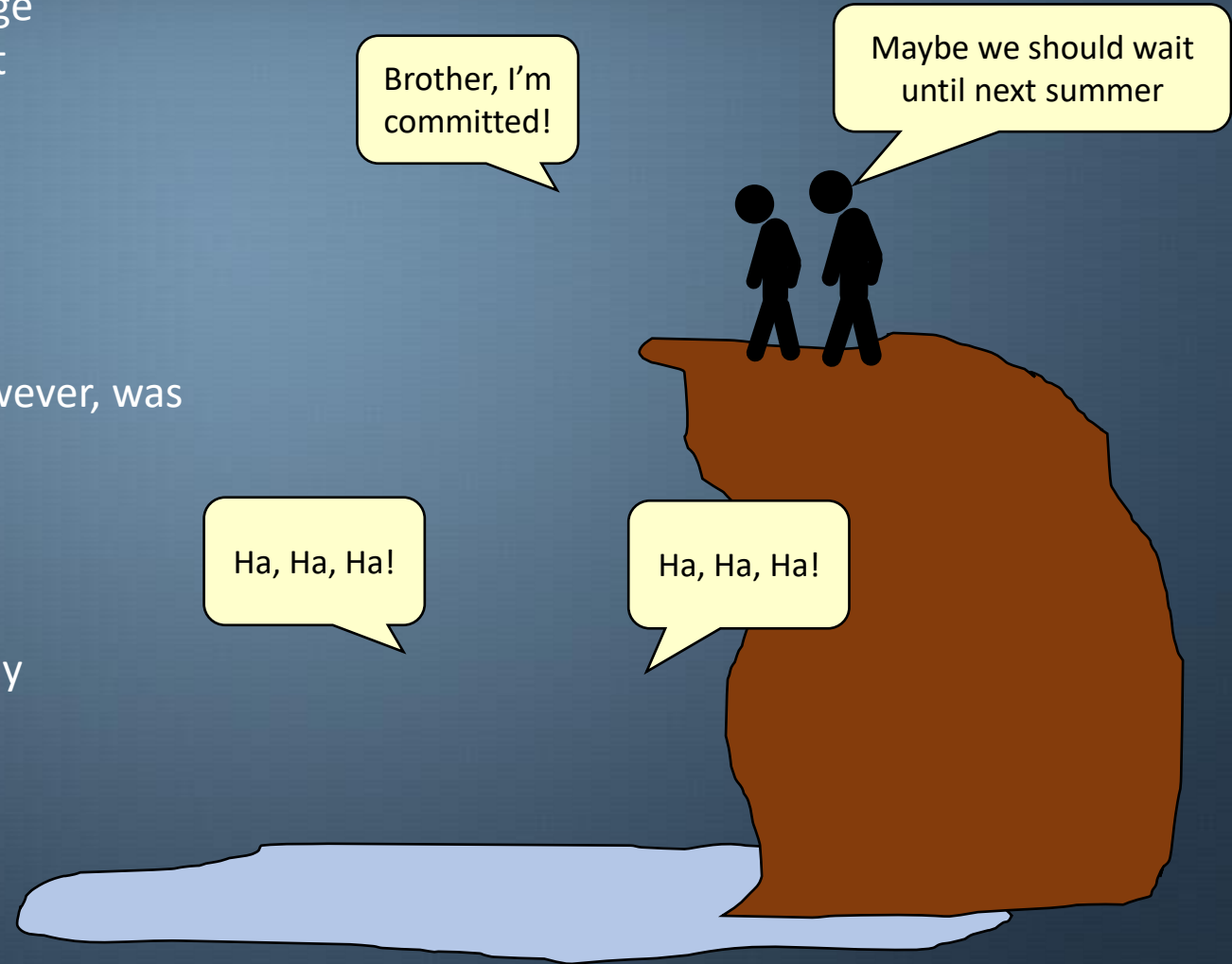
“Although they both wanted to make the jump, neither one wanted to be first. The height of the cliff wasn’t that great, but to the two young boys, it seemed the distance increased whenever they started to lean forward—and their courage was fading fast.

“Finally, one brother put one foot at the edge of the cliff and moved decisively forward. At that moment his brother whispered,

The first brother’s momentum, however, was already pulling him forward.

“He splashed into the water and surfaced quickly with a victorious shout.

The second brother followed instantly. Afterward, they both laughed about the first boy’s final words before plunging into the water: ‘Brother, I’m committed.’



“Commitment is a little like diving into the water. Either you are committed or you are not. Either you are moving forward or you are standing still. There’s no halfway. ...



“Those who are only sort of committed may expect to only sort of receive the blessings of testimony, joy, and peace. The windows of heaven might only be sort of open to them. ...

“In some way, each of us stands at a decision point overlooking the water. It is my prayer that we will have faith, move forward, face our fears and doubts with courage, and say to ourselves, ‘I’m committed!’”



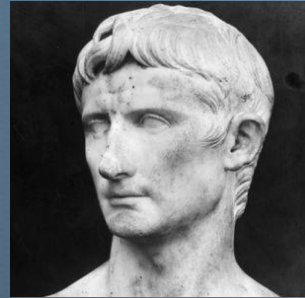
Innocent

King Agrippa found Paul innocent and would have freed him. Because Paul had appealed his case to Caesar they were required to send him to Rome.



Caesar

Roman Emperor (A title by which a Roman emperor was known). Emperors during the New Testament times were:



Augustus 31 B.C.



Tiberius A.D. 14



Caligula A.D. 37



Claudius A.D. 41



Nero A.D. 54

Sources:

1. New Testament Institute Student Manual Chapter 34
2. Hugh Nibley, *Brother Brigham Challenges the Saints*, edited by Don E. Norton and Shirley S. Ricks, 110 – 111
3. Wikipedia
4. Institute Manual, *The Life and Teachings of Jesus & his Apostles*, 2nd ed., p. 341-2
5. Gene R. Cook (*Searching the Scriptures: Bringing Power to Your Personal and Family Study*, 204-9, emphasis added)
6. Elder Bruce R. McConkie *Mormon Doctrine*, 2d ed., 367.
7. Elder Neil L. Andersen (“Repent ... That I May Heal You,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2009, 40).
8. President Dieter F. Uchtdorf (“Brother, I’m Committed,” *Ensign*, July 2011, 4, 5; “Missionary Work: Sharing What Is in Your Heart,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Apr. 2019, 17

PAUL'S ARREST A.D. 58–60

The Lord Again Appears to Paul	23:11
The Jewish Conspiracy Against Paul	23:12–22
Caesarea Paul Transferred to Caesarea	23:23–35
The Case Before Felix	24:1–27
Paul Appeals to Caesar	25:1–22
Paul Testifies Before King Agrippa	25:23–27; 26:1–32

Jesus Appears to Paul Acts 23:11:

"In his persecuted and straitened state, Paul needed comfort and assurance from on high. How shall such be given him? The Lord could have sent an angel; he could have spoken by the power of the Holy Spirit to the spirit within Paul; or he could have opened the heavens and let him see again the wonders of eternity. But this time—thanks to his valiant service, his unwearied devotion, his willingness to suffer even unto death in the Cause of Christ—this time Paul was blessed with the personal ministrations of the Lord of heaven himself. Jesus stood at his side. Without question much was said and much transpired, of which there has been preserved to us only the promise that the Lord's special apostle would yet bear witness of the Master in Rome" elder Bruce R. McConkie (*Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, 3 vols. [1965–1973], 2:191).

Should have been killed Acts 23:27:

"Prior to Augustus the power of the governor in his province was virtually absolute, and in New Testament times he remained the chief military, executive, and judicial officer, with protection of citizens his special concern. Roman society was based on status, and civil rights followed this system. Slaves had the least protection, and citizens had the most. The latter were mainly either Italians or provincial families that were rewarded for usefulness to Rome. Since they generally served by political or economic influence, Roman citizens in any city were probably at least middle class, the implication of Paul telling the examining tribune that he was born a citizen. (See Acts 22:28.) On that occasion the mere claim of citizenship immediately stopped an intended interrogation under the whip. In the letter of Pliny to Trajan discussed earlier, that governor simply executed provincial Christians who did not forsake their religion, but others 'possessed of the same folly' received better treatment: 'Because they were Roman citizens, I signed an order for them to be transferred to Rome.' Paul could demand the same, which he did after facing either the danger of being murdered in another Jerusalem trial or further imprisonment after already being in custody for two years. He received fair treatment on several other occasions because of his Roman rights. Obviously the Lord called an apostle to the gentiles especially suited to survive the dangers of hot controversy." (Richard Lloyd Anderson, "The Church and the Roman Empire," *Ensign*, Sept. 1975, 12)

What is a Nazarenes? Acts 24:5

"Early Christians were apparently called Nazarenes, since Paul was accused of being a leader of this sect. (See Acts 24:5.) Early historians refer to a Christian group as Nazarenes, Christian Jews who neither would nor could give up their Jewish mode of life. Paul taught that the Mosaic Law was not binding upon gentiles or Jews, having been fulfilled by Christ. Later Nazarenes rejected Paul because of this, even though he had been known as a Nazarene during his lifetime. Later Nazarenes were absorbed within Judaism and Christianity by the end of the fifth century. However, the term *Nozri* (Nazarene) remains as the Hebrew word for Christian." (Victor L. Ludlow, "Major Jewish Groups in the New Testament," *Ensign*, Jan. 1975, 26)

Life and Teachings of Jesus and His Apostles Chapter 42

Bound to Kill Acts 23:12-24:

In this evil covenant, forty men overestimated their own power. The Savior said, 'Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool...Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black' (Matt 5:34-36). These forty men had not the power to make one hair white or black, nor did they have power to add one cubit to their stature. Therefore, they were not able to make good on their oath to kill Paul. The Lord, with the help of Paul's young nephew, was able to defy this determined mob. 'And thus we see that by small means the Lord can bring about great things' (1 Ne 16:29).

Unfortunately, we don't know what became of the pitiful hunger strikers. How many days did they last before they broke their oath of abstinence? What were the expressions on their wicked faces when they heard that Paul was being protected by 470 soldiers (v. 23)? What did their family members think of their murderous plot? Although we never hear the end of their pathetic story, we imagine it as a story full of weakness, pride, futility, anger, and resentment—the common lot of Satan's servants.

The Lord designed covenant-making for certain solemn occasions in which the powers of heaven would be used to help the individual fulfill their obligation. The Lord despises covenant-making for evil purposes and the powers of heaven are used in opposition to such evil oaths. Accordingly, the Lord specifically warns us about making oaths we are not able to keep (Matt 5:33-36), underscoring the importance of covenant-keeping in the mind of the Lord.

Gospeldoctrine.com

Straightest Sect of Our Religion Acts 26:5:

" [Paul] defended himself as 'a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee' (Acts 23:6) and called the Pharisees the 'strictest' party in Judaism (Acts 26:5, NKJB). Recent committee translations agree on that term, which means 'most exact' or 'most careful' in this context. The Mishnah, the Jewish law written down about A.D. 200, preserves the thinking of the Pharisees, whose fundamental tradition was, 'Be deliberate in judgment, raise up many disciples, and make a fence around the Law.'

Thus, Paul walked in the path of his father and of the fathers of his people, who sought to protect the Mosaic code, which was the central 'Law.' Josephus, a young Pharisee who lived at the time of Paul, explains, 'The Pharisees had passed on to the people certain regulations handed down by former generations and not recorded in the Laws of Moses.'

The Mishnah summarizes these rules about rules, condensing and compacting them into some eight hundred pages in the standard English translation...For Jesus Christ, the process had gone too far, as he accused the Pharisees of cluttering the meaning of God's greatest commandments: 'Ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups, and many other such like things ye do. . . . Ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition' (Mark 7:8-9)." (Richard Lloyd Anderson, *Understanding Paul*, 22 - 23.)

To be set at liberty Acts 26:32:

By this saying, one might think that Paul made a mistake when he appealed to Caesar. After two years of imprisonment, Agrippa seems willing to let him go. Did Paul make a mistake in appealing to Caesar?

It is doubtful that Agrippa really would have let him go. Besides, the Lord's plan was to have his most vocal apostle testify before the greatest political authority on the earth. Paul had been told, 'Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome' (Acts 23:11).

The Lord's plan for Paul was to testify in Rome. Paul knew it, and this is why he appealed to Caesar-not because he was trying to free himself. Paul was comfortable to suffer for Christ's name as 'the prisoner of Jesus Christ' (Eph 3:1).

Paul's Accounts of His Vision

On the Road to Damascus Acts 9:3-20	In Jerusalem on the stairs of the Temple Acts 22:4-21	To King Agrippa Acts 26:9-19
Light from heaven	A great light around Paul	The way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me
Fell to the earth	Fell to the ground	All of them fell to the earth
"I am Jesus whom thou persecutest"	"I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest."	"I am Jesus whom thou persecutest." In Hebrew tongue
Men with Paul did heard but did not see	The men with Paul heard but did not see and were afraid	
Saul is blind for 3 days	Paul could not see for that glory of light	
Lead to Ananias and blessed	Lead by the hand to Damascus	
		His mission was to "To open their eyes, <i>and</i> to turn <i>them</i> from darkness to light, and <i>from</i> the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."

These variations are likely due to the different audiences and purposes of each account.

Some critics have found fault with the Prophet Joseph Smith because there are variations in the several recorded accounts of his First Vision. However, as with Paul, these variations do not discredit the essential truth that the Prophet saw a vision of Heavenly Father and the Savior.

Paul Travels to Rome

Acts 27-28



*But not long after there arose
against it a tempestuous wind,
called Euroclydon
Acts 27:14*



58-61 AD

Previously...

Paul had been falsely charged with treason and imprisoned.
Paul appealed his case to Caesar in Rome, which was his right
as a Roman citizen.



Boat To Rome

Paul traveled with other prisoners by boat toward Rome, under the custody of a Roman centurion (a Roman military officer who commanded 50 to 100 men).



The Warning

After sailing for many days, they stopped at a harbor on the island of Crete.

As they were leaving the harbor, Paul warned those on the ship that they should not continue their journey.



Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives.



Unsafe Time To Travel

The word *fast* in this context means voluntarily abstaining from eating.

In this case “the fast” probably referred to the Jewish holy day called the day of Atonement, which marked the beginning of the season during which it was generally regarded as unsafe to travel on the Mediterranean Sea because of violent storms.



Euroclydon = A violent cyclonic Mediterranean storm that threatened the lives of everyone aboard the ship



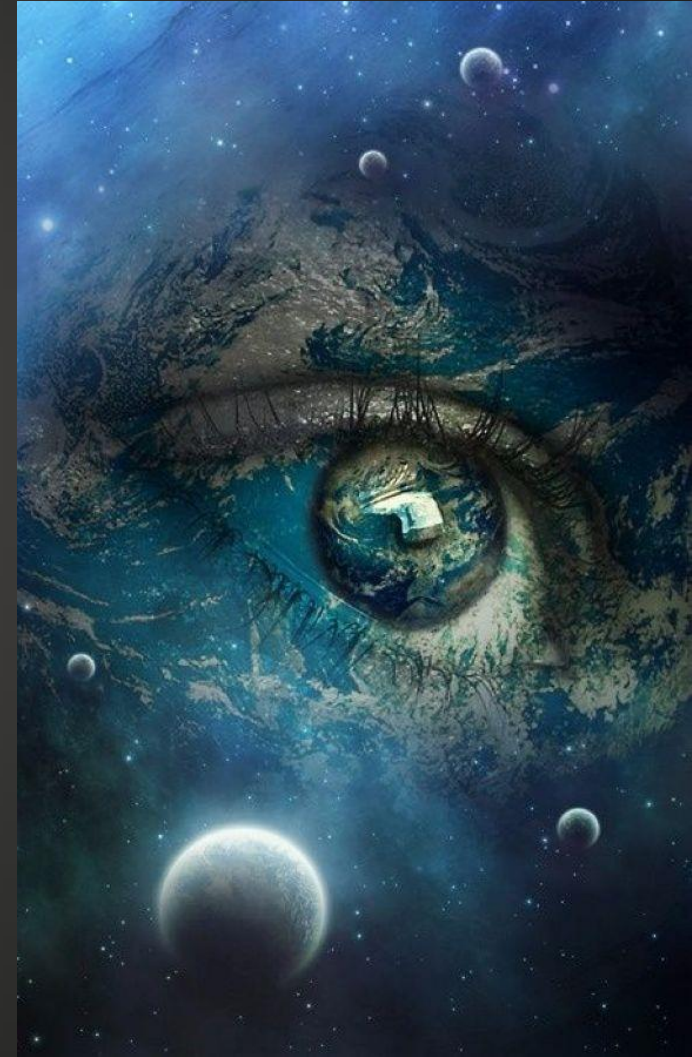
Paul Acting As A Seer

“A seer is one who sees with spiritual eyes.

He perceives the meaning of that which seems obscure to others; therefore he is an interpreter and clarifier of eternal truth. He foresees the future from the past and present.

This he does by the power of the Lord. ...

In short, he is one who sees, who walks in the Lord’s light with open eyes.”



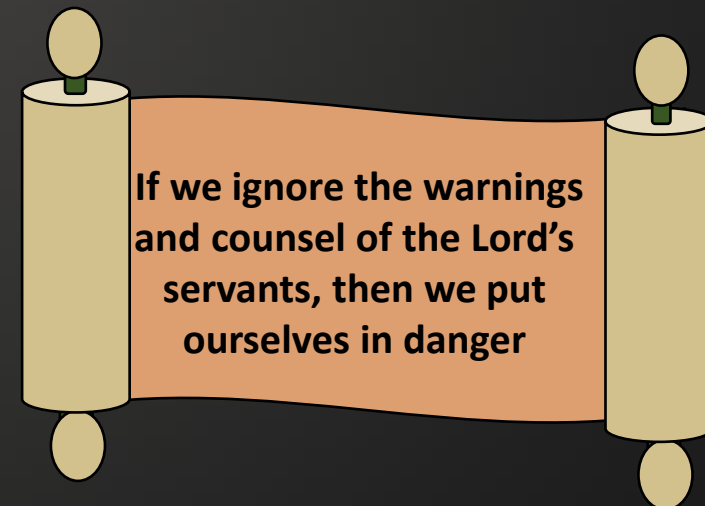
Rejecting Counsel

Rather than heeding Paul's warning, whom did the centurion trust instead?



Why do you think it may have been easier for the centurion to believe the owner of the ship rather than Paul?

Why did most people on the ship ignore Paul's warning?



Over the Edge—The Warning

On a dark rainy night, a 7,300-ton barge smashed into two piers of the Tasman Bridge



Tasman Bridge



Three spans of bridge collapsed

*A family was driving
across the bridge when
the lights went out.*



*A speeding car passed
them and disappeared*



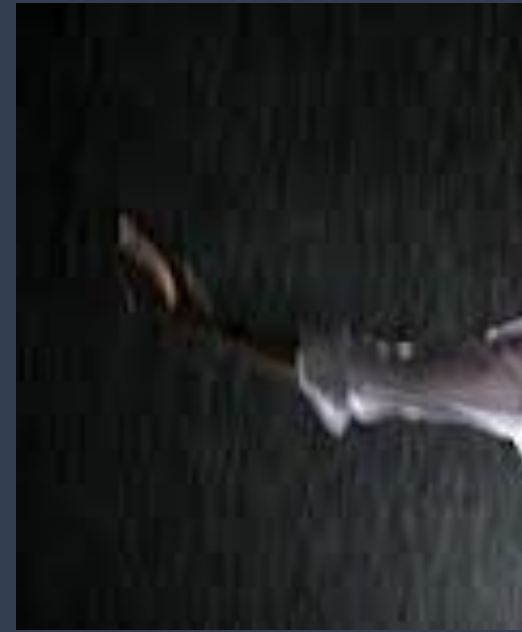


Murray Ling, the father, slammed on his brakes and skidded to a stop, one yard from the edge of a black void.

Murray got his family out of the car and began warning oncoming traffic of the disaster ahead.



As he waved his arms, to his horror, a car swerved around him and plummeted into the abyss.



A second car stopped in time, but a third car crashed into the Ling's car at the edge of the bridge.



A loaded bus headed toward Murray, ignoring his waving arms.



Murray ran along side the bus drivers window yelling,

“There’s a span missing”

The bus swerved just in time
and came to a halt against
the railing.



Dozens of lives had been
saved.

What are some of the warning signs we need to pay attention to?



Who has the Lord given us to warn about the dangers ahead?



What have the prophets warned us about recently?



Marriage
between a
man and a
woman



Controlling anger and
being forgiving



Inappropriate use of the
internet



Charity and service

What could happen if we choose not to listen to the prophets?

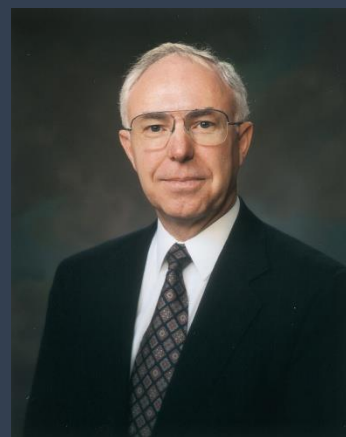


What happens when we do
listen and heed?





“I am grateful for these Brethren whom we sustain as prophets, seers, and revelators who forewarn us of bridges not to be crossed”



Prophetic Counsel

The choice not to take prophetic counsel changes the very ground upon which we stand. It becomes more dangerous.

The failure to take prophetic counsel lessens our power to take inspired counsel in the future.

The best time to have decided to help Noah build the ark was the first time he asked.

Each time he asked after that, each failure to respond would have lessened sensitivity to the Spirit.

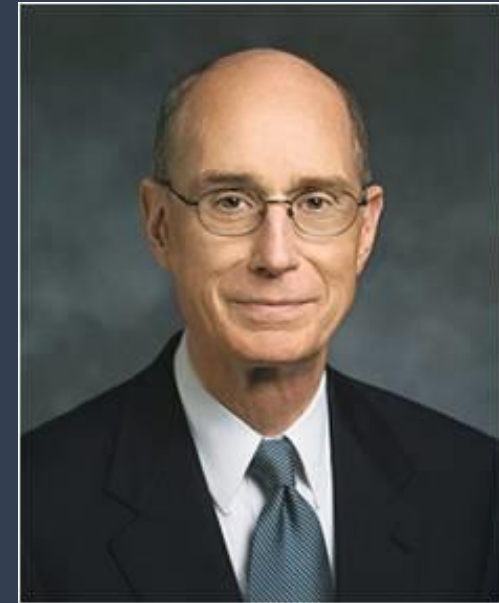
And so, each time his request would have seemed more foolish, until the rain came.

And then it was too late.

Every time in my life when I have chosen to delay following inspired counsel or decided that I was an exception, I came to know that I had put myself in harm's way.

Every time that I have listened to the counsel of prophets, felt it confirmed in prayer, and then followed it, I have found that I moved toward safety.

(9)



Because the Lord is kind, He calls servants to warn people of danger.

That call to warn is made harder and more important by the fact that the warnings of most worth are about dangers that people don't yet think are real.

14th Night of the Storm

The crew cast four anchors into the sea to prevent the ship from crashing into rocks.

The crew then went to the front of the ship and acted as though they were about to cast more anchors.

However, they were actually planning to abandon the ship and flee in a small boat because they feared the ship would sink.



Heeded the Warning

Paul gave the centurion and soldiers a warning to those who were trying to flee the ship.

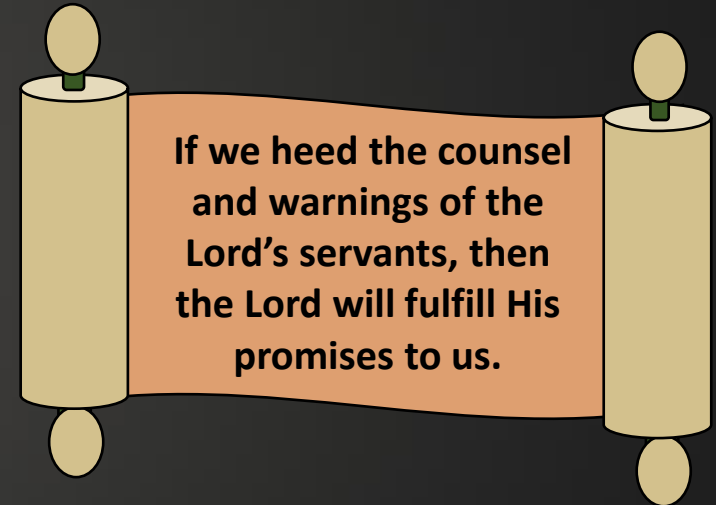


They heeded his warning and prevented the crew from escaping by cutting the small boat's ropes and letting it drift away empty.



You Will Be Safe

The ship crashed as it sailed toward the island of Malta.





“Every time in my life when I have chosen to delay following inspired counsel or decided that I was an exception, I came to know that I had put myself in harm’s way.

Every time that I have listened to the counsel of prophets, felt it confirmed in prayer, and then followed it, I have found that I moved toward safety.”



The Viper



Those on board the ship found safety on the island called Melita, also known as Malta.

“barbarous people” = speakers of a strange language, not brutal ruffians.

While Paul was building a fire on the shore, he was bitten by a poisonous snake. However, he was unaffected by the venom.



A Promise Fulfilled

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. Mark 16:18

Paul is then
taken to
Rome



*“Paul was suffered to dwell
by himself with a soldier
that kept him”*

Spiritual Whirlwinds

A **whirlwind** is a weather phenomenon in which a vortex of wind (a vertically oriented rotating column of air) forms due to instabilities and turbulence created by heating and flow (current) gradients. (5)



Some trials and difficulties that can be likened to whirlwinds



“The worst whirlwinds are the temptations of the adversary. Sin has always been part of the world, but it has never been so accessible, insatiable, and acceptable. There is, of course, a powerful force that will subdue the whirlwinds of sin. It is called repentance.” (6)

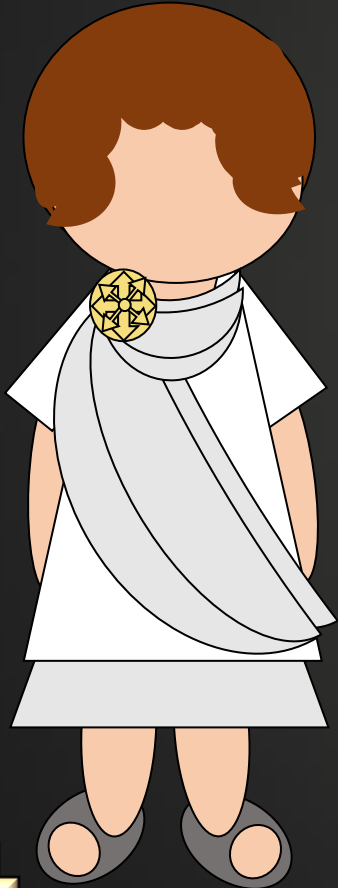
“...whirlwinds for what they are—tests, temptations, distractions, or challenges to help you grow.”

“As far as we know, Paul was the first missionary to preach the gospel in Rome. As he had done in other cities, Paul preached first to the Jews, some of whom believed him, and then turned his attention to ‘all that came in unto him’, many of whom were likely Gentiles.

While under house arrest, Paul wrote what some term his ‘prison epistles’—Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon, and Philippians.

After he spent two years under house arrest in Rome, it is believed that Paul was tried and released and that he thereafter ministered in Asia, Greece, and perhaps Spain before being imprisoned again in Rome. ‘

According to tradition, he was killed during the persecutions under Nero, sometime between A.D. 64 and 68. Paul alluded to his future death in 2 Timothy 4:6–8.”



Sources:

1. New Testament Institute Student Manual Chapter 33
2. Elder John A. Widtsoe (*Evidences and Reconciliations*, arr. G. Homer Durham [1987], 258).
3. Elder Spencer J. Condie *A Mighty Change of Heart* Oct.1993 Gen. Conf.
4. President Henry B. Eyring (“Finding Safety in Counsel,” *Ensign*, May 1997, 25).
5. *Wikipedia*
6. Elder Neil L. Anderson “Spiritual Whirlwinds,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2014, 18–21)
7. *Life and Teachings of Jesus and His Apostles chapter 42*
8. *New Testament Student Manual* [Church Educational System manual, 2014], 330.
9. Henry B. Eyring, “Finding Safety in Counsel,” *Ensign*, May 1997, 25; “A Voice of Warning,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1998, 32

PAUL'S IMPRISONMENT, CA. A.D. 58–60

Departure for Rome	27:1–8
Crete Shipwreck at Fair Havens	27:9–44
Melita (Malta) Paul Heals the Sick	28:1–10
From Malta to Rome	28:11–15
Rome Paul Preaches in Rome	28:16–31

Life and Teachings of Jesus and His Apostles Chapter 42

Following counsel Acts 27:14-31:

“Every time in my life when I have chosen to delay following inspired counsel or decided that I was an exception, I came to know that I had put myself in harm’s way. Every time that I have listened to the counsel of prophets, felt it confirmed in prayer, and then followed it, I have found that I moved toward safety. Along the path, I have found that the way had been prepared for me and the rough places made smooth. God led me to safety along a path which was prepared with loving care, sometimes prepared long before” (“Finding Safety in Counsel,” *Ensign*, May 1997, 25).

Reasons why individuals sometimes choose to reject the counsel of Apostles or other Church leaders:

(1) *Worldly experience and training.* Just as “the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship” (Acts 27:11) rather than the counsel of Paul, a tentmaker, people today sometimes reject the words of seers or other Church leaders because their counsel does not coincide with the opinions of “experts” in the world.

(2) *Convenience.* The ship’s crew contended that they should continue their journey because “the haven was not commodious to winter in” (Acts 27:12), meaning it was not a convenient location to spend the winter months. Likewise, adhering to the counsel of Church leaders is not always convenient.

(3) *Majority mentality.* “The more part” of the passengers advised the centurion “to depart” (Acts 27:12). For many individuals, it makes more sense to agree with the majority than to agree with a servant of God, whose words are not meant to be popular. (1)

Prophetic Teachings:

“The prophet is not required to have any particular earthly training or credentials to speak on any subject or act on any matter at any time.

“Sometimes there are those who feel their earthly knowledge on a certain subject is superior to the heavenly knowledge which God gives to His prophet on the same subject. They feel the prophet must have the same earthly credentials or training which they have had before they will accept anything the prophet has to say that might contradict their earthly schooling. ...

“... The prophet tells us what we need to know, not always what we want to know. ...

“How we respond to the words of a living prophet when he tells us what we need to know, but would rather not hear, is a test of our faithfulness. ...

“... The prophet can receive revelation on any matter—temporal or spiritual” President Ezra Taft Benson (“Fourteen Fundamentals in Following the Prophet,” in *Brigham Young University 1980 Speeches* [1981], 3–4; speeches.byu.edu).



This model of a Sidonian merchant ship may be similar to the vessel that carried Paul as a prisoner to Rome.

Photograph by Richard L. W. Cleave