

44-Acts-Pt23-Transcript

without a real level funding Tim Freedy has set himself the mission of developing a vaccine against some of the world's deadliest venomous snakes and using himself as a human guinea pig wait mama you can never ever have a bad day and that's where my focus is so strong and so intense because if you've a bad day do your math wrong your injections are off if you get bit you're down betcha two bites nice Oh greetings everybody and welcome to Wednesday night Bible study we're hoping this evening to finish the book of Acts and as he's on the opening clip there there's a gentleman who has been working with very venomous snakes the most venomous snakes in the world and he's just been building up his immunity against these snakes by every single day he allows these snakes to bite him and his body is building up these antibodies so that he can actually resist the deadly venom of these snakes these snakes of the black mamba that you saw bite him there this is instant death so for those of us who are bidden by it if we're if we have the misfortune of being bitten by a viper like this we would die instantly and others people would just swell up and just be in terrible agony and yet he's able to resist this now we're going to see tonight the Apostle Paul bitten by one of these Vipers and all of the local people on the island of Malta who expect who know what happens when you're bidden by these Vipers they're expecting him to swell up they're expecting him to die and nothing happens he's miraculously protected and this all as he's on his way to Rome to preach Christ so let's get into the study within a study the

final few chapters of the book of Acts
and just bring the book to a conclusion
will begin with prayer our Heavenly
Father we bow before you and we praise
You God and just thank you so much for
the blessing that we've had of studying
the book of Acts the acts of the Holy
Spirit and particularly the acts of the
Apostle Paul as he submitted himself to
Jesus Christ

and we pray now father that you'll be
with us as we look at these final
chapters and that you'll give us
understanding we ask this in Jesus Holy
Name Amen so we'll begin and last week I
mentioned that I was speaking from or
we're going to be studying from the New
King James rather than the King James
and I just find it were in these final
few chapters in the action is moving
very quickly that the King James was
just a bit cumbersome and the New King
James is more fluid so we'll begin and
you'll remember we we left off in acts
25 with Paul being in prison in caesarea
so he left Jerusalem he was taken to
Caesarea and he appealed to go to Caesar
and here King Agrippa and Bernice were
in Caesarea and he's actually going to
they're going to allow him to defend
himself in their presence and so at the
end of x.25 Festus is speaking to
Agrippa and explaining that because he
he was uncertain of the the accusations
that the Jews had against Paul he asked
whether he was willing to go back to
Jerusalem since it seems to be a
religious issue did he want to go back
to Jerusalem and be tried there and
there be judged concerning these matters
but when Paul appealing to be reserved
for the decision of Augustus that's
Augustus Caesar commanded him to be kept
until he could be sent to seize her so

Paul did what I didn't want anything to do with the Jerusalem he knows that Jerusalem that the Jews were vicious that they were basically demon possessed but influenced and he didn't want anything to do with Jerusalem so he would rather go to Caesar which is really ironic that here Jesus Christ came to save Israel and Paul as a servant of Christ has come to save Israel and it is safer for him to go to the Gentiles than to go to Jerusalem to be tried so Agrippa said to Festus I would like to hear the man myself so King Agrippa now wants to hear this man and so Festus says tomorrow he said you shall hear him so the next day when Agrippa and Bernice had come with great pomp this is the King and just by the way just whoohoo Agrippa is he's a descendant of Herod the Great so Herod the Great is the one that was ruling at the time of Jesus Christ and although he wasn't a Jew he was an Edomite he was ruling over the Jews and he was ruling over the Jews and so he was very familiar with Jewish customs and he was the one who built the temple or rebuilt the temple for the Jews but he himself wasn't a Jew so it's down now through the third his his great grandchild is Herod Agrippa the second who was married to Bernice so that's who is that's who Paul is in front of now a descendant of Herod the Great and therefore an Edomite but somebody who is very familiar with the Jewish customs so the next day when Agrippa and Bernice had come with great pomp and it entered into the auditorium with the commanders and the prominent men of the city at Festus system and Paul was brought in and Festus said King Agrippa and all the men who are here present with us you see

this man about whom the whole assembly of the Jews petitioned me so all of the Jews from Jerusalem became down there were against Paul and they were begging Festus to basically destroy him both the Jerusalem and here in Caesarea crying out that he was not fit to live any longer and now this is this Gentile Festus saying but when I found that he had committed nothing deserving of death and that he himself had appealed to Augustus I decided to send him I have nothing certain to write to my Lord concerning him therefore I have brought him out before you and especially before you King Agrippa so that after the examination has taken place I may have something to write for it seems to me unreasonable to send a prisoner and not to specify the charges against him so so basically Festus justice confused he doesn't know what the issue is the Jews are beside themselves that this man is worthy of death and Festus can't find a reason for him to be put to death and now he's got to send into augusta and he really doesn't have anything to write against Paul now remember when Paul was in front of the high priest and the high priest calls Paul to be struck and then Paul basically insulted the high priest and then easy explained that he didn't know he was the high priest but he was you know Paul the high priest was accusing Paul without hearing him and according to the law is why you know Paul said to him you know do you we want to condemn me according to the law but you yourself are breaking the law and the doodle in Deuteronomy it says that I commanded your judges at that time saying here the cases between your brethren so when someone has an accusation against someone listen to it

and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the stranger who is with him you shall not show partiality in judgment so the high priest had already condemned Paul without even hearing him and so you shall not hear partiality in judgment you shall hear the small as well as the great you shall not be afraid in any man's presence for the judgment is God's and this is according to the law you have the judge righteously and let let God be the judge over the nation and so going on to chapter 19 if a false witness rises against any man to testify against him of wrongdoing and so Paul would be very familiar with this law that he's being falsely accused as Christ was accused falsely in the same way the Jews wanted to condemn Christ and the pilot wanting to free Christ because he couldn't see any reason to condemn him but they wanted better Barabbas self read and wanted to and destroy Christ and in the same way they had false accusations against Paul Luke is now showing Theophilus they have false accusations against the Paul as they did with Christ that so they shall stand before the Lord both men in the controversy shall stand before the Lord before the priests and the judges who serve in those days and the judges shall make careful inquiry you're innocent until proven guilty and indeed if the witnesses of false witness who has testified falsely against his brother then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother so you shall put away evil from among you so this is the law and here we find these Jews with these false accusations against Paul and it's the Gentile governor who is actually more

righteous than the Jewish rulers so coming back now so now we come into chapter 26 with King Agrippa they're still in Caesarea a Paul has been told by this by God that he needs to testify of Christ in Jerusalem I'm sorry in Rome so he was in Jerusalem now he's in says areia but he knows that he has to testify of Christ in Rome so a grip of the king said to Paul you are now permitted to speak for yourself so he's been brought up he can now defend himself so Paul stretched out his hand and answered for himself and you're going to see here there's there's this thing in Roman times called rhetoric and and good rhetoric itions will use ethos logos and pathos so ethos they used to establish their credibility logos to prove logically their position and then pause the path is to appeal to the emotions and you can see now that Paul is a skilled retirin because he's going to use these elements establish credibility he's going to establish the logic of his argument but he's also going to appeal to emotion and so he's permitted to speak and he begins by saying I think myself blessed King Agrippa because today I shall answer for myself before you versus the Jews that he's happy now to come to this Edom I'd King who's familiar with Jewish law and defend himself concerning all the things of which I am accused by the Jews falsely accused by the way especially because you are expert in all customs and questions which have to do with the Jews so again he's a and either Mike King he's under the Roman Empire but he's very familiar easy falsities expert in the Jewish law and customs therefore I beg you to hear me patiently so now he establishes his credibility

this is the ethos my manner of life from my youth which was spent from the beginning among my own nation at Jerusalem so even though he was born in Tarsus he grew up at Jerusalem and all the Jews know this they knew me from the first if they were willing to testify that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee so in other words if Paul could have found witnesses to come forward and defend or or at least speak they would have agreed and would have testified that Paul grew up in Jerusalem and lived according to the strictest sect a Pharisee and now so this is his credibility and now I stand and I'm judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers so he's making it very clear here that the reason he is in trouble is simply because he believes in the promises made by God and he's placed his hope in these promises made by God to our fathers and I just find this incredible that so many people want to talk about Pauline theology and how Paul basically destroyed the law had nothing to do with the law and came up with a Gentile version of Christianity and here when he's on trial for his life he makes it very clear that the reason he's on trial is because he completely believes in the promises made by God to our fathers to Israel it's because of his belief in the promises to Israel that he finds himself in trouble to this promise our twelve tribes earnestly serving God night and day hope to attain so this is something that not unique to him everyone who believes in the scriptures has this hope for this hopes sake King Agrippa I'm accused by the Jews so I'm not doing anything that's outside of the law I'm not doing anything that's outside of our

scriptures you're an expert in the scriptures and in these very scriptures that your expert in this is what I've placed my hope in and this is why now I'm in trouble with the Jews why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead and so here you'll just very quickly just one scripture in Ezekiel he says to Israel you shall fall by the sword I will judge you at the border of Israel then you shall know that I am the lord so I mean how can they know when they're dead well the scripture is very clear that in that valley of dry bones the whole house of Israel is going to live again so Paul is being accused by the Jews because he believes in the resurrection of Christ and he believes in the resurrection of Israel and he's saying you know why is it strange that i believe in the resurrection that God raises the dead and that's just one of them all the prophets they when they warned Israel of breaking the Covenant they then warned Israel of the punishment that's going to come to them for breaking the Covenant and then immediately on the heels they then prophecy of Israel being restored Israel being brought back to the land Israel being brought back to life in order to be restored and brought back to the land so all of Israel should have this hope of the resurrection of the Dead continuing his defense indeed and so this is now that the logic of his argument indeed I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth so now he's basically saying I was just like the Jews who are accusing me today that i myself was also contrary to jesus christ this i also did in jerusalem and many of the sense i shut up in prison this is how against

this way I was having received authority from the chief priests and when they were put to death I cast my vote against them so I was just so against this way that I was happy to see these people put to death and I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme and being exceedingly enraged against them i persecuted them even to foreign cities and this is what happens when people are inspired by the devil and we see that today in the Middle East where Christian are being rounded up and being forced to blaspheme if that you know it's not so much that they they have their beliefs and you have your beliefs and no somehow they're so inspired by the devil that they have to round Christians up and force them to blaspheme and Paul is saying that he was no different that that he was just compelled or he was compelled to compel them to blaspheme being exceedingly enraged against him so Satan was basically working in him while thus occupied so while he was doing this and just really being driven by the devil as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests at midday O king and this is like the third time that Paul keeps this was such a profound experience for him and he just keeps repeating it that that he was struck down on the road to Damascus and this was a pivotal moment for him and he basically encountered Jesus Christ and it turned everything around at midday O king along the road I saw a light from heaven brighter than the sun shining around me and those who journeyed method with me and when we had all fallen to the ground I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language Saul Saul why are you

persecuting me it is hard for you to kick against the goads so I said who are you lord and he said I am Jesus whom you are persecuting but rise and stand on your feet for I have appeared to you for this purpose to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you so all saw things right now and then in this moment but also Christ was going to show him some additional things I will deliver you from the Jewish people as well as from the Gentiles to whom I now send you so when he was struck down well he was told by Christ that not only is he going to go to the Jewish people and be delivered from them but he also needs to go to the Gentiles that God is basically raising him up as a minister to the Gentiles to open their eyes in order to turn them from darkness to light and Christ is appearing to Paul as this light that he has to turn the Gentiles to and from the power of Satan to God that they the Gentiles may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in me and we know when Christ began his ministry in Luke for that when he when he went to his own people and explained to them that God has mercy on the Gentiles they wanted to kill him and the same thing with Paul when he was defending himself and explained that he is going to the Gentiles that's when they wanted to kill him they were happy to listen to him and his understanding of the promises to the fathers but once he mentioned the Gentiles they became enraged therefore King Agrippa I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem so

right where he was struck down just outside of Damascus he got straight to work as soon as he was restored he went straight into Damascus and started to declare this then in Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea and then to the Gentile so he went to the Jews first then to the Gentiles that they should repent turn to God and do works befitting repentance for these reasons primarily because he went to the Gentiles for these reasons the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me therefore having obtained help from God as he was promised and I've been obtained help from God to this day I stand so the reason I'm here today is because God has helped me and Theophilus is reading this and understanding it and tracing it back to volume 1 of Luke and understanding very clearly that God has fulfilled his promise in Paul witnessing both too small and great saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come so notice again and again this this concept that Paul has come up with some kind of Pauline theology that is separate and apart from what the scriptures say Paul makes it clear that he is speaking specifically from the prophets so he says here that that when they wanted to kill him that he obtained help from God to this day I stand witnessing both too small and great so great great being King Agrippa himself saying nothing else except that which the prophets and Moses said would come that's everything he said is from the scriptures that Christ would suffer that he would be the first not the only the first there's going to be others that he would be the first to rise from the dead and would proclaim what would

he proclaim light to the Jewish people
this is what the Prophet said but the
prophets also said that Christ after he
suffered he would also proclaim light to
the Gentiles and that's what Paul is
doing and he's quoting as an example
here Isaiah 19 Isaiah 49 and verse 6
indeed he says it is it is too small a
thing that you should be my servant to
raise up the tribes of Jacob that's what
you're going to do raise up the tribes
of Jacob and to restore the preserved
ones of Israel I will also give you in
addition to preserving Israel in
addition to that the Prophet is saying I
will also give you Christ as a light to
the Gentiles so Paul is saying I'm not
saying anything different than what the
Prophet said so if you look at Moses if
you look at the prophets here's Isaiah
saying Christ will be will be there to
restore Israel but also to be a light to
the Gentiles and that's what Paul was
called to do to be a light to the
Gentiles that you should be my salvation
not just to Israel it has always been
written by the prophets that Christ
would be salvation to the ends of the
earth and that's what Paul is now
explaining to Agrippa that he went to
the Jews first and then he went to the
ends of the earth preaching Christ to
the Gentiles and so he's here now
defending himself to King Agrippa now as
he thus made his defense Festus said
with a loud voice of fest assisting to
all of this and he says Paul you are
beside
yourself so you're out you're out of
your mind much learning has made you mad
so Festus is listening to this and
listening to Paul's command of the
scriptures and his understanding and
he's basically saying Paul you're crazy

much learning has made you mad but he said I am not mad most noble Festus but speak the words of truth and reason for the king before whom I also speak freely knows these things look at Paul's confidence he knows that King Agrippa knows the scriptures and so he's really happy that he can finally talk to somebody who's knowledgeable of the scriptures and that he can appeal to him because of his knowledge of the scriptures and so Festus says you're crazy Paul Paul says nope the King knows the scriptures and he says he says here I speak the words of truth and reason for the king before whom I I also speak freely knows these things for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention and since this thing was not done in a corner so so Paul is making it clear that he wasn't secretive and Christ wasn't secretive Christ preached openly and and Paul did the same thing he's preaching openly it's not just you know we just have Sabbath services for ourselves and we just keep as quiet as possible and stay hidden no this wasn't done in a corner it was done everywhere and so King Agrippa knows these things since these things were not done in a corner King Agrippa do you believe the prophets I know that you believe so Paul is aware of kings of King Agrippa walk with with God is his his devotion to the Jewish Way of life and customs and his knowledge of the scriptures and so he's appealing them to Agrippa now and say King Agrippa do you believe the prophets then Agrippa said to Paul you almost persuade me to become a Christian so so King Agrippa is listening to him saying this all makes sense and i myself am tempted to follow you and Paul said

so Paul said to him I would to God that not only you but all who hear me today might become both almost an altogether such as I am except for these chains so so Paul is saying I wish that everybody would follow me and understand what I understand and be able to benefit the way I've benefited and be just like me except for the fact that I have to wear these chains when he had said these things the King stood up as well as the governor and Bernice and those who SAT with them and when they had gone aside they talked among themselves saying this man is doing nothing deserving of death or chains it's the very same conclusion that pilot came to when he examined Christ that the man has done nothing worthy of death and yet the Jews are beside themselves that he must be killed in the same way now Paul with the Holy Spirit as an extension of Christ as part of the body of Christ doing Christ's work the king is examining him and saying he's done nothing worthy of death and yet the Jews are determined for him to be put to death and so this man so then King Agrippa says 22 Festus this man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar so in other words King Agrippa would have said if if he did not appeal to Caesar King reports they set the man free but but he doesn't understand that the Holy Spirit wants to take all to Rome so that he can declare Christ there and when I when it was decided that we should sail to Italy so he now has to go to Rome they delivered Paul and some of the prisoners to one named Julius so Julius is a Centurion of the Augustine red regimen so entering a ship of a drama team we put to sea meaning to sail along the coast of Asia Aristarchus a Macedonian of thessalonica

was with us and the next day we landed
its side on and Julius treated Paul
kindly and gave him freedom to go
his friends and receive care so so
Julius could see and probably believed
what Paul was teaching and so was
willing to treat him kindly and allow
him to be with his friends in the
Brethren and receive whatever care they
had for him so then we come now to where
was I first for when we had put to sea
from there we sailed under the shelter
of Cyprus because the winds were
contrary so the winds are blowing
against them it's where they need to
wherever they're through on their way to
Rome the winds blowing against them and
when we had sailed over the sea which is
off Silesia and Pamphylia we came to
Myra a city of Ionia there the centurion
and found an Alexandrian ship sailing
to Italy and he put us on board so
they're constantly trying to find ships
that are going their way they find this
Alexandrian ship that's sailing to Italy
so he put us on board to that so now
they're they're on their way to Sicily
or to Italy when we had sailed slowly
many days because the wind is against
them and arrived with difficulty of
tinnitus the wind not permitting us to
proceed so just got too bad we sailed
under the shelter of Crete off Selinus
passing it with difficulty we came to a
place called Fair Havens near the city
of Lyssia now when much time had been
spent and sailing was now dangerous
because the fast was already over Paul
advised them so it looks like they are
now past atonement and I just get the
sense here that you know there's you
basically do all your sailing up until
the fast and then after that because
maybe the weather hurricanes whatever it

is you're really taking a risk if you do
any significant sailing after the fast
so so now that they spent a lot of time
because the wind was contrary and the
weather was bad so they didn't sail now
the fastest past and Paul advises I'm
saying men I perceive that this voyage
will end with disaster and much loss not
only of the cargo
and ship but also our lives so we this
is dangerous now we're being foolhardy
if we try to sail in this in these
conditions nevertheless the Centurion
was more persuaded by the helmsman and
the owner of the ship by then the things
spoken by Paul so Paul is concerned with
their safety but the owner of the ship
is probably concerned with the business
transaction and so he needs to get to to
Rome or to Italy so that he can offload
the cargo and do whatever his business
is and so not to sail would be bad
financially for him whereas Paul was
concerned with the safety of the of the
of the people and so he's advising the
captain not to sail and because the
harbor was not suitable to winter in the
majority advised to set sail from there
also so they they agreed it you know we
can't we can't harbor here for the
winter we might as well sail if by any
means they could reach Phoenix a harbor
of Crete opening toward the southwest
and northwest and winter there instead
so maybe they won't make it all the way
to Italy but at least get part way and
it's going to be better to winter there
maybe the climate is warmer and when the
south wind blew softly supposing that
they had obtained their desire putting
out to sea they sailed close by creed so
look like the conditions were favorable
for a while so they could sail but not
long after a tempestuous head wind arose

called uric Leyden so it looks like they named their hurricanes and storms the way we do to this day so anyway there's this terrible wind that rises up maybe it's a hurricane so when the ship was caught and could not head into the wind we let her drive so they just let it go and running under the shelter of an island called Claudia we secured the skiff with difficulty when they had taken it on board they used cables to undergird the ship and fear unless they should run aground on to search essence they struck sale and so were driven and because they were exceedingly tempest-tossed so you can imagine what it would be like being out in the middle of this storm they were exceedingly tempest-tossed the next day they lighten the ship so they started to throw things overboard on the third day we threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands so you can just see that you can imagine the fear that they were under and just trying to lighten the ship as much as possible on the third day we threw the ship's tackle overboard with our own hands now when neither Sun nor stars appeared for many days so for their just in this terrible situation and no small tempest beat on us or big storm was on us all hope that we would be saved was finally given up so now they just realized they're all going to die but after long abstinence from food so Paul has been fasting then Paul stood in the midst of them and said men you should have listened to me and not have sailed from Crete and then incurred this disaster in Los so kind of i-told-you-so but they were so eager to go they didn't listen to Paul and now I urge you so now listen to me now I urge you to take

heart for there will be no loss of life among you but only of the ship so the person who the owner of the ship we wanted to sail he's going to now lose the ship but no lives will be lost for there stood by me this night as he was fasting and Angel of the god to whom i belong and whom I serve saying do not be afraid Paul you must be brought before Caesar so you're going to fulfill this mission to declare Christ in Rome you must be brought before Caesar and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with use so all the soul did 276 men with Paul they're all going to be saved therefore take heart men for I believe God that it will be just as it was told to me however we must run aground on a certain island so they're going to destroy the ship because they have run aground now when the 14th Knight had come as we were driven up and down the Adriatic Sea about midnight the sailor sensed that they were drawing near some land and they took sounding so some sort of sonar that they're sending out signal to see how long it takes to come back so they can get a sense of how far they are from land so they took soundings and found it to be 20 fathoms and when they had gone a little further they took soundings again and this time found it to be 15 fathoms so they know they're approaching land now and they get a sense of how far they are from the land then fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks so they don't want to just smash into these rocks they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come so that they could actually see what was going on before they come to the ground and as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship when they had let down the skiff into the sea

under pretence of putting out anchors
from the prow sailing business on the
show all that is sailors would know Paul
said to the Centurion to the soldiers
unless these men stay in the ship you
cannot be saved then the soldiers cut
away the ropes of the skiff and let it
fall off and as day was about to dawn
Paul Paul beg them all to take food
saying today is the 14th day you have
waited and continued without food and
eaten nothing so they must have been
drinking but not eating therefore I urge
you to take nourishment for this is for
your survival since not a hair will fall
from the head of any of you so he had
this revelation from God so it was quite
confident that they would all be safe
and so they just they need to eat now
then they were all encouraged and also
took food for themselves and in all we
were 276 people on the ship and when
they had eaten enough they lighten the
ship and throughout the wheat into the
sea when it was day they didn't
recognize the land but they observed a
bay with a beach on to which they had
planned to run
possible so seems like they have no idea
where they were where they are where
they were they've been in this storm
they finally seal and they don't really
know what land it is but they they're
happy to see the land and they let go
the anchors and let them in the sea
meanwhile loosen the rudder ropes they
hoisted the mainsail to the to the wind
and made for sure but striking the place
where to seize met they ran the ship
aground so the ship is going to be
destroyed now and the prows stuck fast
and remained immovable but the stern was
being broken up by the violence of the
waves and the soldiers plan was to kill

the prisoners lest any of them should swim away and escape but the Centurion so again Paul had favored the century and I think this is Julius wanting to save Paul kept them from their purpose so he understood they wanted to kill the prisoners instead he commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land and the rest some on boards and someone parts of the ships of the can swim they need to get a floating device and so it was that they all escaped safely to land now when they had escaped they found out that the island was called Malta so they finally get to the island they figure out where they are there now on the island of Malta and the native showed us unusual kindness so they were really taken lure Luke was really noticing how kind the Maltese were for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold so they're still in this stormy weather but when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand so you know the the heat of the fire caused it the snake to come out and then it just fastened on Paul's hand now these snakes when they bite within minutes you know the poison enters your body and people die or if they don't die they're in terrible i was going to actually show a picture of what it looks like when you're bitten by these snakes but it was just so horrible I did I decided not to show it so it fastened on his hand and that's again where you saw in the opening clip this this gentleman who has been building up antibodies to these deadly snakes but he has done this over a year is a bit at a time whereas the

Apostle Paul he doesn't have these antibodies and so while we read here is that he the when the natives are the nature's very kind to them but when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand they said to one another no doubt this man is a murderer whom though he has escaped the sea yet justice does not allow him to live so it's great that he escaped to see that's miraculous but now you know what it's this is like karma they believe in karma he's clearly a murderer but Paul shook off the creature into the fire and he suffered no harm nothing happened however they were expecting that he would swell up or suddenly fall down dead so obviously people have been bitten before and they know exactly what happens when you're bitten by one of these snakes and they're looking at Paul but after that looked for a long time and so not saw no harm come to him they changed their minds and said that he was a god so first clearly he's a criminal nope now he must be a god in that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island whose name was Publius who received us and entertained us courteously for three days and it happened that the father Publius laced sick of a fever and dysentery Paul went into him and prayed and he laid his hand on him and healed him so when this was done the rest of those on the island do I diseases came and were healed and again Luke is writing to Theophilus here and no doubt immediately as Theophilus is reading this he's going to be read thinking back to the first volume that Luke wrote when Luke wrote of Christ and how He healed everybody and all the sick came to Christ but remember when John

the Baptist was in prison and in Luke 7 verse 19 it says John calling two of his disciples to him so he sent these disciples to Jesus saying are you the coming one or do we look for another are you the Messiah or do we look for another and when the men had can't come to Jesus they said John the Baptist has sent us to you saying are you the kind one or do we look for another now notice how Christ answers them so are you the guy you the Messiah or should we keep looking that very hour so that within the hour that they asked he cured many of diseases afflictions and evil spirits and too many blind he gave sight so they asked him this question John John sent us to find out if you're the one and then that there within the hour of asking the question he starts healing Jesus then answered them so after he's done these these acts these works he then answered them and said to them go and tell John the things you have seen and heard tell him that the blind see the lame walk the lepers are cleansed the Deaf hear the dead are raised the poor have the gospel preached to them and blessed is he who is not offended because of me so in other words it's sort of like a code to John John who knows the scriptures and knows that when the Messiah comes when the savior of Israel comes he's going to do these things and in fact in Luke for when Christ opened the book of Isaiah and read to them and said this day these things have been fulfilled in your hearing so Christ came to show in to fulfill these scriptures so that they would know that God has come into the earth now John would be very familiar with these scriptures and he's saying do we keep looking for the Messiah because

he knows the works that come with the Messiah in fact when Christ was confronted by the Jews who didn't believe him he said believe me for the works sake look at the works that I'm doing search the Scriptures what did the Prophet say about the Messiah and you'll notice I'm doing those very works now Christ has been crucified he's been buried and resurrected he's now the head of the church the church is his body the Holy Spirit works through the body and the body is now continuing these very same works and so as Paul is doing all of this healing Luke is basically telling the awfulest look look at the works it's the same works of Christ so when this was done the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed this is a real echo of the work of Christ when all the sick everybody came to Christ and as many as came to him He healed them they also honored us in many ways and when we departed they provided such things as were necessary after three months we sailed in an Alexandrian ship whose figurehead was the twin brothers which had wintered at the island so now it's time to continue and landing in Syracuse we stayed three days from there we circled round and reached radium and after one day the south wind blew in the next day we came to the Tullio but to Puteoli where we found brethren so there were brethren there and we were invited to stay with them seven days and so we went toward Rome and from there when the Brethren heard about us they came to meet us as far as a P forum and 3 ends when Paul saw them he thanked God and took courage the Paul was really encouraged by the fellowship that he had

with these brethren and very grateful to God for this now when we came to Rome so finally now he's come to wrong the Centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard but Paul was permitted to dwell by himself with the soldier who guarded him so again all the way here Paul has been given favor now he's able to dwell by himself and it came to pass after three days that Paul called the leaders of the Jews together so now

he's in Rome and he's going to call the the Jewish people together although the leaders of the Jews so when they had come together he said to them men and brethren though I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers so he's done nothing against them this is these distances defense then look I've done nothing and again I just keep harping on this that that Paul did nothing against the customs of the Jews nothing against the father's everything he did was informed by the scriptures by the scriptures given to Israel so I've done nothing against our people are the customs of Our Fathers yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans who when they had examined me they wanted to let me go because there was no cause for putting me to death so it's the Jews who wanted to put him to death with the when the Romans looked at it the Gentiles this is just absolutely amazing it's the very same thing that happened to Christ that when when the Roman pilot examined him he found nothing worthy of death whereas when when the Jews he's coming to save them but they're the ones who want to destroy him and in the same way Paul is coming in the same customers Christ coming to

declare the liberty of Israel they did the casting off of Roman oppression through the Savior to Israel and yet the Jews don't accept it they choose of the oppressor rather than the Liberator of Israel but when the Jews spoke against that I was compelled to appeal to Caesar so so they the Romans saw no reason to put him to death the Jews objected and so Paul then had to appeal to Caesar not that I had anything of which to accuse my nation so he wasn't going to Caesar he's not coming to Caesar to accuse the Jews of anything he just he just does not want to be put to death unlawfully for this reason therefore I have called for you

to see you and speak with you why because for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain so again very very cool is so clear the only reason he's being persecuted and imprisoned this way is because of the scriptures that he reads the scriptures and Jesus Christ is the Messiah he is the hope of Israel Israel is being subjected to oppression Israel has had these beasts powers reigning over them they are to be the the ruling nation they are to be the the intercessor nation with the Gentiles or over the Gentiles but instead the Gentiles are over them and oppressing them and Jesus Christ is the hope of Israel Jesus Christ is the savior of Israel and and Paul believes this and Paul is preaching this and because of his hope in the Messiah that's why he's being arrested and being persecuted and imprisoned and potentially subjected to the death penalty then they said to him we neither received letters from Judea concerning you nor have any of the Brethren who came reported her spoken any evil of you so so the Brethren that

have come I haven't said anything evil of Paul and and the news the hatred that Paul has encountered in Jerusalem that hasn't spread to Rome so so there they don't know they they are open-minded now but we desire to hear from you what you think for concerning this sect we know that it is spoken against everywhere so we haven't anything specifically about you but we know that all over people speak against these Christians that the way so when they had appointed him a day so they set aside a day that they would listen to him many came to him at his lodging to whom he explained and solemnly testified what did he testify of the kingdom of God persuading them concerning Jesus from both the law of Moses and the prophets from morning till evening so it's very important again this is Pauline theology that God has a kingdom that although the Jews are being oppressed by Rome today that Jesus Christ is the Messiah that Jesus Christ is the king of Israel and that he is now resurrected and he's returning in glory and he is going to subject all these Gentile nations and he is going to be the savior of Israel and so this is what he's saying this is what the prophets have taught that this is the the kingdom of God is coming and Jesus Christ is the Messiah and it's in the law of Moses and it's in all the prophets and he's teaching them this from morning till evening he's just so full Festus says Paul much learning has made you mad at he says I'm not mad but I understand what the prophets thought so he's showing them in all of the five books of Moses because this is what Christ said that then this is what Christ did when he was resurrected he opened their minds so they could understand the laws the

the books of Moses as well as all the prophets and the Psalms and so now Paul is going through and showing them from the scriptures this Jesus he's the Messiah and the kingdom of God is coming so he did this from morning till evening and so his skin is not you know it's not 45 minutes and you're done he is speaking and showing his whole mind and what is in the scriptures and some were persuaded by the things which were spoken and some disbelieved so so there are some that are listening I thinking while this really makes sense but others are like this can't be there so stuck in their ways so when they did not agree among themselves they departed after Paul said had said one word and this is what he said the Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers so now he shows them all of all the different prophecies about Christ and now he shows them a prophecy about themselves and this is the same thing that priced quoted saying go to these people and say hearing you will hear and you won't understand and seeing you will see and not perceive for the hearts of this people have grown delvis people these Israelites for their ears are hard of hearing and their eyes they have closed lest they should see with their ears and hear with their eyes lest they should understand with their hearts and turn so that I should heal them so Paul sees very clearly painfully that blindness in part has happened to Israel because part of them did believe part of them were persuaded but then part of them did not believe and so Paul is seen with his own eyes that blindness has happened to Israel and so and many turns to the Gentiles so the Gentiles are coming in while blindness has occurred

to Israel Gentiles are being grafted in but he also knows the prophecy that God will open the eyes of the Israelites eventually therefore he says so because you've turned from this therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles and they will hear it and so that has always been Paul's custom to go to the Jews first and then when they reject it to then go to the Gentiles but he really was called to be an apostle to the Gentiles

that was the pivotal moment in ass 9 when he was struck down on the road to Damascus and told by Christ that I'm going to deliver you from the Jews take the message to the Jews first I'm gonna deliver you from the Jews and then take this message to the Gentiles because Christ is not only a light to Israel he's a light to the Gentiles as well and that has always been the case that was written by the prophets and so Paul is only following the Israelites scriptures in what has been written to the prophets and so here again just to show you the prophecies that he's working with in Isaiah 6 it says and he touched my mouth with that and said Behold this has touched your lips your iniquity has taken away so in the same way Paul was struck down and and he even though he killed Christians and and consented to their death and persecuted them Christ took his iniquity away behold this has touched your lips your iniquity is taken away and your sin is purged and I heard the voice of the Lord saying whom shall i send and who will go for us then I said here am I send me and he said go and tell this people keep on hearing and do not understand keep on seeing and did not perceive make the heart of his

people dull their air is heavy and shut their eyes so this is what Paul was quoting realizing that he's the messenger that's been sent to them but at the same time even though he's sent by God they're not going to hear him then continuing in verse 30 then Paul dwell two whole years in his own rented house and he received all who came to him so so Paul now is in Rome he's in prison in Rome he has not yet come before Caesar and he's there for two whole years and he's got his own place and he's good he's has favor and so brethren are able to come to him and he's able to fellowship with the Brethren and so even though he's under house arrest he has an element of freedom now we know or certainly we believe at the end of this two-year period Theophilus must have been successful in defending Paul that Luke equipped him enough to understand and be in a position to successfully defend Paul because he continued to he continued his ministry beyond this two-year period and we see him writing to Timothy we see him writing to Timothy and the other Titus and he even here in Philippians he says he writes to the Philippian church in Macedonia but I want you to know brethren that the things which happened to me so all these things that have led to his imprisonment in Rome have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel is actually it is allowing me to preach the gospel so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard and to all the rest that my chains are in Christ so everybody realizes that Paul is completely innocent that he has done nothing worthy of death that he shouldn't even be imprisoned and the

only reason he's imprisoned is because he's preaching the Messiah and so the whole Roman guard at the whole palace guard sees this and most of the Brethren in the Lord having become confident by my chains are much more bold to speak the word without fear so when they see Paul's example the Brethren themselves now are emboldened and they go out preaching the gospel so he's in prison in this Roman though in Rome and either whole palace guard has the gospel preached to him and see his speech to them and they see his example the Brethren that come to visit him they're inspired and they're in bold and so they're going out and they're preaching the gospel so everything has happened for the furtherance of the gospel into the Gentile world and so he says now for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the spirit of Jesus Christ so he's confident here that he's going to be released according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed but with all boldness as always so now also Christ will be magnified in my body whether by life or by death so Paul is not worried about life that he may be sentenced to death that's okay but he has a sense that he's going to be set free and that's good to either way the gospel is going to be preached and then in chapter 2 of Philippians he says therefore I hope to send him at once that's Timothy as soon as I see how it goes with me but I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly so again he's confident he's getting the sense that he's going to be released he must be counseling with Theophilus and they're building the defense and he he's seeing the favor

that he has in the palace and so he's confident that he's going to be released coming back now to Acts chapter 28 verse 28 therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles and they will hear it and when he had said these words the Jews departed and had a great dispute among themselves so some believed Paul some didn't believe Paul was this polarizing figure and no doubt those that didn't believe were full of hatred and anger and those that did were full of zeal and so there's this great dispute now among the Jews then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house and received all who came to him and what did he do preaching the kingdom of God that's what Paul preached the kingdom of God that Jesus Christ is the king he's coming to Israel and he's going to be a light to the Gentiles preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concerned the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence no one forbidding him and so this brings us now to the end of the book of Acts that that no one forbade him and Justin just in terms of sort of summarizing where we've been and again this was written to Theophilus in terms of a summary the journey that we've been on a volume one the Gospel according to Luke Paul refers to it in acts 1 as all that Jesus began to teach and do and then volume 2 he's showing that Jesus continues to teach and do but this time through the church through the body of the church and so the first part adds 123 the key event here is Pentecost when when Christ sends his holy spirit and establishes the church so that his work can continue that he has the head of the church continues to work through the church

then from apps for 28 as a result of preaching Christ boldly as a receiving the Holy Spirit enabling them to preach Christ boldly and to do the works of Christ to heal and end into to relieve people of their blindness and their lameness the very works that Christ did that the Messiah was prophesied to do as a result of that the church encounters persecution persecution in fact sponsored by by who would later become the Apostle Paul x9 is the pivotal chapter in the book because in x9 we see this this a Pharisee Paul who is so enraged with the Christian community that he is just beside himself in persecuting them and we see him struck down on the road to Damascus to imprison them and persecute them further and Christ telling him you are a chosen vessel I have chosen you from your mother's womb and so the fact that you are farrah seeing you know the law inside out the fact that you're fluent in Greek the fact that you're a Roman citizen I've chosen you specifically to bring this gospel not only to the Jews but also to the Gentiles so what we see in acts 428 is really the work driven by the Apostle Peter primarily and then we see beginning in acts 9 the same work continuing so so Paul Luke and writing to Theophilus is first of all showing the work of Christ in volume 1 then in volume 2 as a result of the receipt of the Holy Spirit he shows the work that Peter does and John and the other apostles were primarily Peter as a result of receiving the Holy Spirit and now beginning in acts 9 with the conversion of Paul Theophilus is able to see that Paul is doing the very same work that Peter did which is the very same work that Christ did and

so from acts 10 to 20 we see Paul going on these missionary journeys so that he can take the gospel to the Gentile world and we witnessed him going on three separate missionary journeys and then finally he's brought to trial he's brought to trial in Jerusalem then he's taken to Caesaria and then finally he comes to Rome which is really the heart of the beast so this third the Jews are under this oppression of the Roman Empire and Israel is to be above Rome Israel's to be over all the Gentiles and so Paul now comes right in the heart of this Roman Empire to preach Christ and and now what we see is all of this is being presented to Theophilus and then clearly Theophilus was very successful in defending Paul and and relieving him of this burden now I want to go back as we conclude here I want to go back to acts one because of the very beginning of Acts Luke writes this which is very kind of strange and and Luke is a very intelligent man he's a professional man and he uses his words very carefully he's not writing anything that is superfluous everything he writes is there for a purpose and he begins volume two of his work showing how Christ chose these apostles but then Peter realizing that Judas betrayed his office that they needed to replace Judas and so he drives the the initiative to find a replacement for Judas and so they proposed to Joseph called barsabbas who was surnamed justice and Matthias and they prayed and said you O Lord who know the hearts of all show which of these two you have chosen which of these two you have chosen to take part in this ministry and Apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell that he might go to his own place and they cast

their Lots and the lot fell on Matthias and he was numbered with the eleven apostles Luke never says that Mathias was an apostle he's just silent on the issue he just says this is what they did that that Christ chooses his apostles and these two they chose these two men and said to Christ which of these two is going to be the replacement for Judas they don't say first of all Christ should we be making this decision let's cast lots to see if this is even the decision we should be making and then if if the lot comes back and says yes make this decision then they go and they find these men and they say oh Christ which of these do you choose but then they just assume that it's there it's there a role it's their position to choose an apostle and Luke records this and then he never mentions Matthias again there's nothing of us through clearly Matthias's of incredible character the same with Joseph so Joseph and Matthias these are exceptional men and they choose these exceptional men but cry uh Luke never comments again so Matthias he says was numbered among the apostles he doesn't say mathayus was an apostle instead he goes to great lengths to show Theophilus all of the work that the Apostle Paul does to very clearly show that this man does or did the work of Jesus Christ that this man was chosen from his mother's womb so while they were trying to decide who should they choose to replace Judas Christ had already chosen Paul so he didn't need their help and so when we look at revelation we see when the New Jerusalem comes down now the wall of the city had twelve foundations and on these foundations were the names of the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb so there aren't 13 apostles there are only

twelve apostles
and Luke says that Mathias was numbered
among the apostles he doesn't say that
Mathias was an apostle and again he goes
to great lengths to show the legitimacy
of Paul's apostleship so that Theophilus
can successfully defend him so just food
for thought again this is this is
conjecture this is just my thinking here
but it's just food for thought but very
very clearly there's no doubt about it
Paul was an apostle of Jesus Christ and
these acts of the Holy Spirit are
showing what what the holy spirit
enabled Paul to do and the church to do
as an extension of Jesus Christ as his
body so I certainly hope that you've
gotten a lot out of the book of Acts I
certainly have I've really enjoyed
studying this and having you with me
every Wednesday evening we're now going
to stop as we come to the end of the
year I'm going to be away for two weeks
when I come back what I'd like to do is
go back to Luke's first volume so I
think this is great because when we
finish now we'll have the archives a
volume 1 and volume 2 so anybody down
the road in the future who comes over
comes across these studies they'll be
able to go through volume 1 and then
volume 2 and just get the whole story I
think for us it'll be really interesting
now now that we understand everything
that's happened in volume 2 and sort of
the fulfillment of Luke's writing volume
1 volume 2 2 now read volume 1 through
the lens of volume 2 and the other thing
I think that's going to be great is as
we go through a Luke's apostle writing
about Christ and in the Messiah and the
prophecies concerning him I think this
is going to just set us up for a really
worshiping Christ with all of our heart

when it comes to pass over I don't think
we'll finish Luke bypass over but
certainly what we cover between now and
Passover is certainly going to
strengthen us and inspire us and enable
us to take the Passover so much more
soberly and with with great inspiration
so thank you again for joining me on
these Wednesday night Bible studies will
take a break for two weeks and God
willing we'll start again in January
and we'll start with volume 1 the Gospel
according to Luke so I'm going to head
over to the chat room now and look
forward to talking to you there thanks
again for joining us god be with you god
bless you and remember jesus christ is
lord jesus christ is Messiah Jesus
Christ is everything we all him our
praise we owe him honor we owe him
worship god bless you