

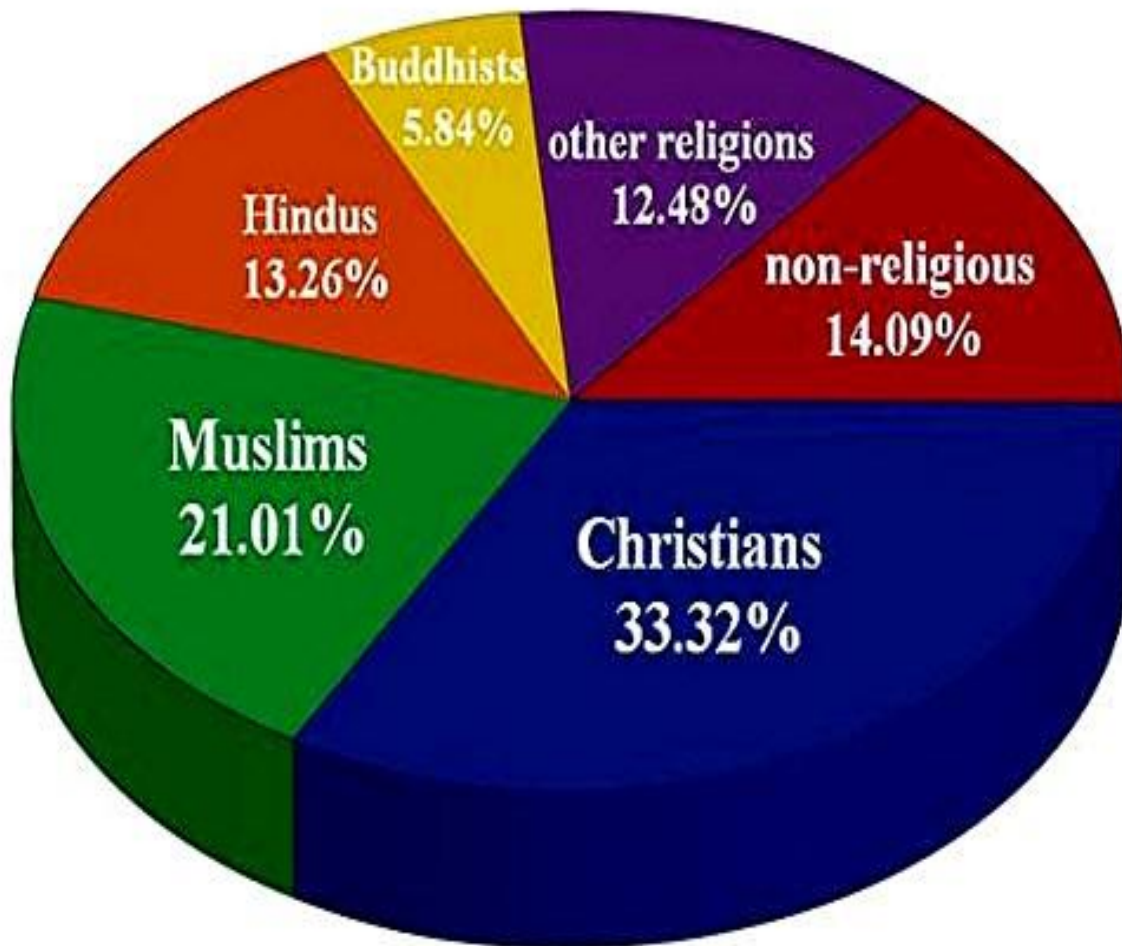
PAUL: THE APOSTLE TO THE DIASPORA

- First half of Acts centered on Peter and Holy Land Jews
- Paul's custom was to first go to the local synagogue
- Paul did not offer to start a new religion for Gentiles
- He offered Gentiles an opportunity to join with Jews in their covenants with God



DID THE JEWS REJECT CHRIST, BUT GENTILES ACCEPTED HIM?

World Religions by percentage



- If the standard for acceptance is that 100% must accept, then neither Jews nor Gentiles meet that standard
- Only 15 million Jews, so 99.9% of the world is gentiles
- 7 in 10 gentiles reject Christ!

BREAKING BREAD



- Paul urged everyone to eat, to gain energy and strength for what was coming
- He “broke bread”, said a blessing, and ate
- This is not Communion (a Church Sacrament)
- It is standard Jewish eating custom

TIME TO ABANDON SHIP

- Grain and cargo thrown overboard to lighten the ship
- Anchors cut away and the rudders lowered
- Foresail used to provide forward movement to steer
- Ran aground before shore, on a sandbar
- Julius stopped his soldiers from killing the prisoners
- As the divine messenger had told Paul, all 276 survived
- God will use outsiders to judge, and to save, His own





ACTS CHAPT. 28

THE BARBARIANS OF MALTA

- Malta about 60 miles from Sicily
- The Greek calls the people *barbaros*.....barbarians
- Inherently meant non-Greek speakers
- These people were very kind to the shipwrecked
- It was winter, cold, and the *barbaros* started a fire for warmth

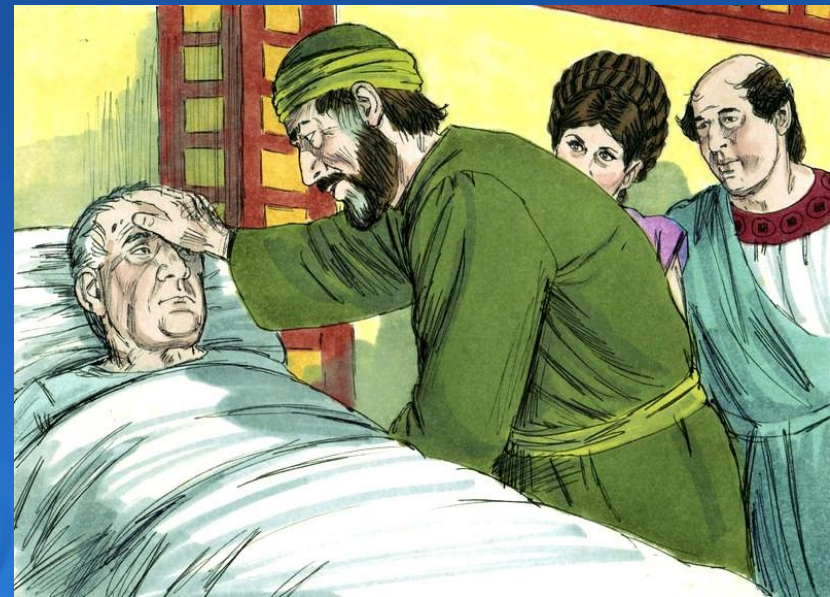
PAUL BITTEN BY A VIPER



- When Paul was gathering firewood, he accidentally picked up a snake
- The snake was poisonous and the locals thought Paul would die
- They figured he was getting justice from the gods for his evil deeds
- When he wasn't affected, now they thought he was a god!

PAUL HEALS PUBLIUS'S FATHER

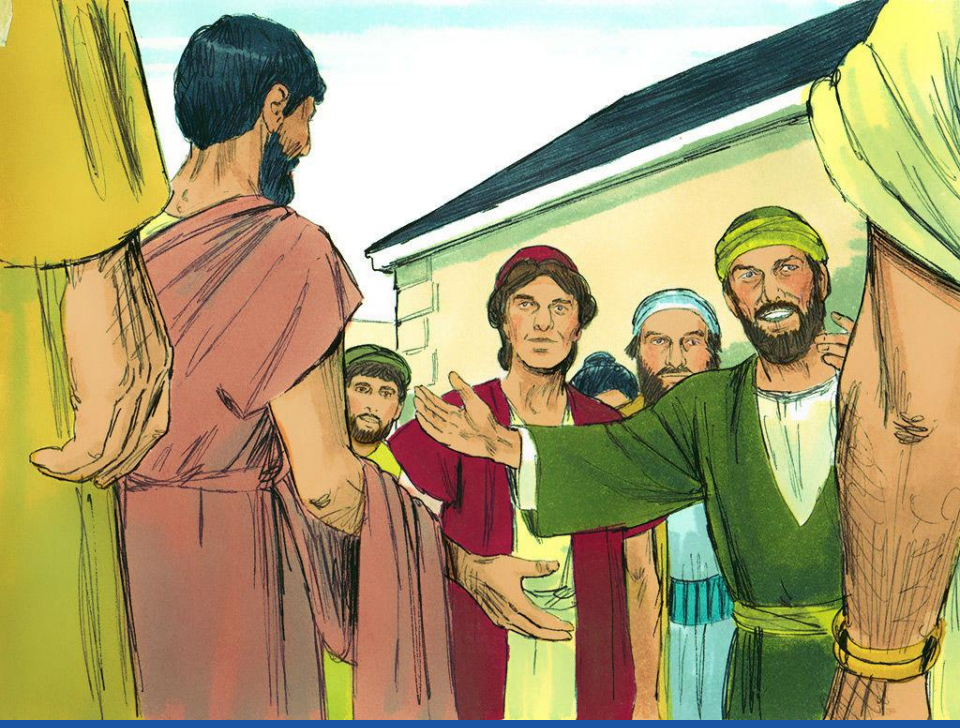
- Malta about 120 sq. miles
- Governor Publius offered hospitality to the shipwrecked
- Father was ill with severe gastric disease and fever; folks usually died from this
- People associated all disease with the spirit world
- *Tzara'at* was a divinely caused skin disease
- Holy men were often seen as "physicians"



PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME

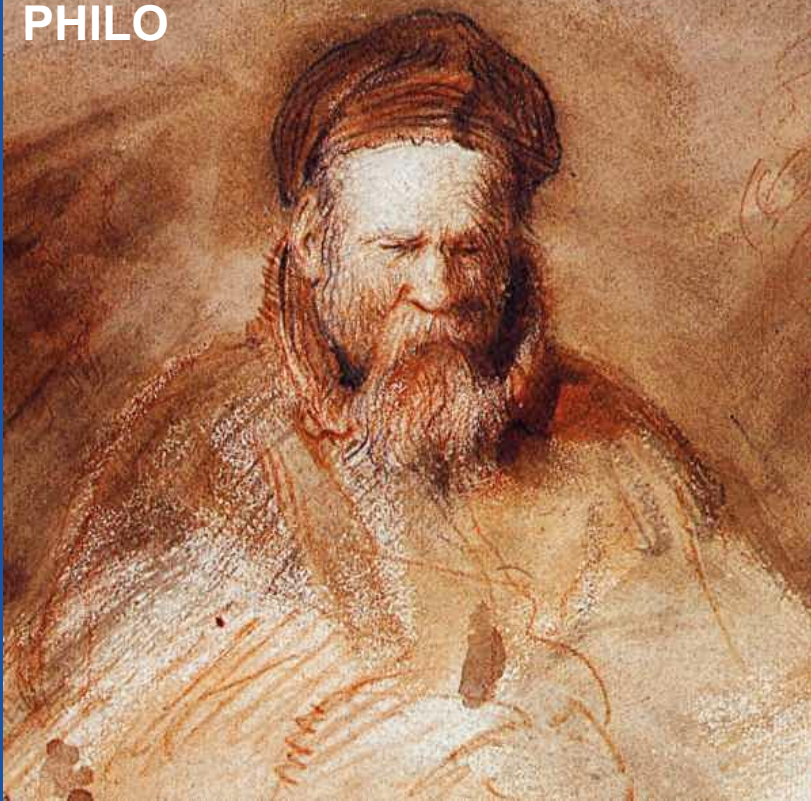


PAUL FINALLY IN ROME



- Puteoli had a substantial Jewish colony
- How was Paul, a prisoner, able to have such freedom as to scout for Believers?
- Probably it was Luke or others who found them
- Roman soldier always with Paul
- Paul taken on the Appian Way to Rome
- He rented a place to stay by himself (plus the Guard)

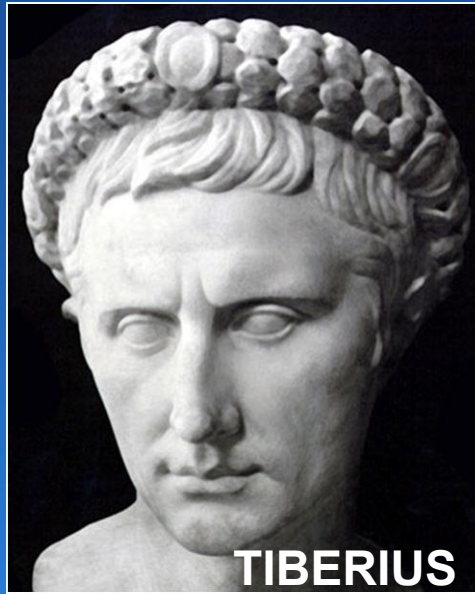
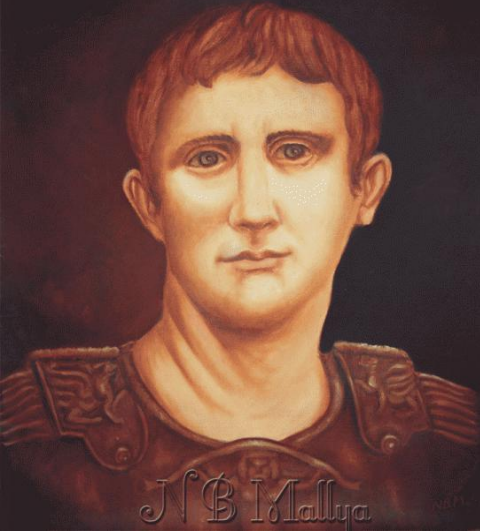
PHILO



REALITIES OF JEWISH LIFE IN ROME

- 40 - 50,000 Jews living in Rome
- Philo gave a firsthand account of Jewish life in Rome
- Jews were not being persecuted
- Romans wanted peace and were quite tolerant and respectful of the Jewish ways
- Many synagogues in Rome
- Jews had positions of influence in Roman government

AUGUSTUS



TIBERIUS

NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

- Paul felt the need to reassure Roman Jews that he was not a trouble-maker
- Roman Jews wanted peaceful co-existence with Rome
- Jews have divided themselves into the zealous and the go-along-to-get-along
- Same today as it was 2000 years ago

