



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Prayer

God Father; in Jesus’ name I ask it, Lord lead us in the right path ways, I pray lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Your yoke is easy and Your burden is light, help us to keep everything easy and light. Supply all our needs, bless us and keep us, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Scripture

3 And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. 4 And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffers not to live. 5 And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm. Mark 16:18; Luke 10:19; 6 However, they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god. Acts 14:11;

Acts 28 : 3-6

Worship Music

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[How Did You Know- Gary Valencino](#)

[Take Me Out Of The Dark— Gary Valencino](#)

[Go The Distance- Regine Velasquez](#)

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(vv. 1-5) Tells us that Paul and his traveling companions when they were shipwrecked on the island of Malta. Paul was busy gathering sticks to make a fire and dry his clothes when a poisonous snake, driven out of the flames, suddenly bit Paul's hand. The Bible says Paul simply shook it off into the fire and suffered no evil effects. We should do the same when things try to "bite" us; we too should be bold inwardly and shake it off. Whatever may trouble you from the past, shake it off.....God has a great future planned for you. The dreams of the future have no room for the snakebites of the past....

Malta is the island of Malta. Barbarous refers to people who don't speak Greek, not that they were primitive or uncultured. It was cold and rainy. Apparently the snake that bit Paul was very poisonous, because the people expected him to swell up and die. They thought that he was a murderer, for though he had been saved from the sea, Justice [the goddess of avenging] has not permitted that he should live. Then Paul simply shook off the small creature into the fire and suffered no evil effects. They were waiting expecting him to swell up or suddenly drop dead, but when they had watched him a long time and saw nothing fatal or harmful, come to him they changed their minds and kept saying over and over that he was a god. There was in the vicinity of that place there were estates belonging to the headman of the island, named Publius, who accepted and welcomed and entertained us with hearty hospitality for three days. And it happened that the father of Publius was sick in bed with recurring attacks of fever and dysentery; and Paul went to see him, and after praying and laying his hands on him, he healed him. After this had occurred, the other people on the island who had diseases also keep coming and were cured. They were shown respect and presented with many gifts, they were honored with many honors, and when they sailed, they provided and put on board their ship everything they needed. It was after three months stay there that they set sail in a ship which had wintered in the island, and Alexandrian ship with the Twin Brothers [Castor and Pollux] as its figurehead. They landed at Syracuse and remained there three days. From there they made a circuit following the coast and reached Rhegium, and one day later a south wind sprang up, and the next day we arrived at Puteoli. There they found some [Christian] brethren and were entreated to stay with them for seven days, And so they came to Rome. Puteoli was the best port near Rome (100 miles away), connected to Rome by the Appian Way.

The Christians traveled thirty to forty miles out of Rome to welcome Paul. Paul wanted the Jews to know that he was not there to make an accusation against them to Caesar, but that he was a prisoner because of his belief in the Messiah. Paul was chained to a soldier day and night. Each soldier assigned to Paul probably received a heavy witness about Christ. Paul was in Rome at least two years (28:30). Though a prisoner, he was allowed to live in his own rented house, with his guard, and with the freedom to receive visitors and to teach Christ. There were already many Christians in Rome. Paul's two years in Rome were very fruitful, reaching even into the imperial palace (Philippians 4: 23). While in Rome he wrote the letters to the Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.

It is accepted that Paul was acquitted in about A.D. 61 or 62. He had planned to go on to Spain (Romans 15:28). Based on tradition, it is possible that Paul made a fourth missionary journey to Spain, Greece, and Asia Minor in about A.D. 63 to 67 during which time he wrote the letters to Timothy and Titus. Luke ends the story here. Secular history says that Paul was freed by Caesar, since there were not real charges against him. Paul went back to Ephesus, where he lived until he was again arrested. He was taken back to Rome, and beheaded around A.D. 67. by Caesar.

Paul's ministry lasted about 30 years. In those years he won vast numbers to Christ. At times God helped him with miracles. In almost every city he was persecuted. They mobbed him and tried to kill him. He was beaten, flogged, imprisoned, stoned, driven from city to city. He also had to contend with his thorn in the flesh, which they think, since he committed about his large writing that it may have been a disease of the eyes. The Holy Spirit gave him the supernatural power to live against all odds and in the midst of his suffering to bring thousands of people to Christ.

(King James Bible and Amplified Bible; 2005)

(Halley's Bible Handbook; 2000, history and commentaries)

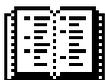
(New Testament Study Guide; 2005; Chuck Smith; page 68-69; commentaries)

Psalm 7

1 O LORD my God, in you do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me:
2 Lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending it in pieces, while there is none to deliver.
3 O LORD my God, If I have done this; if there be iniquity in my hands;
4 If I have rewarded evil to him that was at peace with me; (yes, I have delivered him that without cause is my enemy:)
5 Let the enemy persecute my soul, and take it; yes, let him tread down my life on the earth, and lay my honor in the dust. Selah.
6 Arise, O LORD, in your anger, lift up yourself because of the rage of my enemies: and awake for me to the judgment that you have commanded.
7 So shall the congregation of the people compass you about: for their sakes therefore return you on high.
8 The LORD shall judge the people: judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, and according to my integrity that is in me.
9 Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God tries the hearts and reins. 1Chr 28:9; Jer 11:20; Jer 17:10; Jer 20:12; Rev 2:23;
10 My defense is of God, which saves the upright in heart.
11 God judges the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.
12 If he turn not, he will whet his sword; he has bent his bow, and made it ready.
13 He has also prepared for him the instruments of death; he ordains his arrows against the persecutors.
14 Behold, he travails with iniquity, and has conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood. Job 15:35; Isa 59:4;
15 He made a pit, and dig it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made. Job 4:8; Ps 9:15; Ps 10:2; Prov 5:22; Prov 26:27; Eccl 10:8;
16 His mischief shall return on his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down on his own pate.
17 I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high.

Psa 119:105

**Thy word [is] a lamp unto
my feet, and a light
unto my path.**



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