

# THE BOOK OF ACTS

## ACTS 28:21-31 | LESSON SUMMARY

### Open Door

**ACTS 28:21**, "And they said to him, "We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken any evil about you." (ESV)

- It initially appears that Paul has met a much less hostile audience
  - They have nothing bad to say about Paul
- His "views," however, are under serious question
  - "...everywhere it is spoken against." (28:22)

**ACTS 28:23**, "When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets." (ESV)

- Paul gives the leaders a masterclass in what the Old Testament has to say about Jesus
  - Remember: Paul studied under Gamaliel
  - He did not abuse his knowledge (2 Corinthians 11:6)
    - Morning until evening
    - Some are convinced



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- Paul finally offends those who do not believe by quoting Isaiah 6:9-10:

**ACTS 28:26-27**, "Go to this people, and say, "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive." For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.'" (ESV)

- Paul seals the prophet's words by adding, "let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen."
  - Hardness of heart is a major theme in the Old Testament
    - The ancient Israelites saw the heart as the center of a person's reasoning and decision making—there was no distinguishing between brain and heart as far as understanding
  - At this, the leaders depart, arguing among themselves



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- Paul maintains an open-door policy, teaching about God boldly, even under arrest
  - Most scholars believe Paul was briefly released and traveled to Spain
  - He was then rearrested and executed by Nero

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** Mercy Amba Oduoye, *Beads & Strands: Reflections of an African Woman on Christianity in Africa*, Edward D. Andrews, *Archeology and the New Testament*, Kelly Leslie, *Philosophers, Jews and Christians in the Roman Empire: authority, text and tradition*, F.F. Bruce, *The Book of Acts*

