

Paul Writes Letters From Prison

Acts 28:11-31





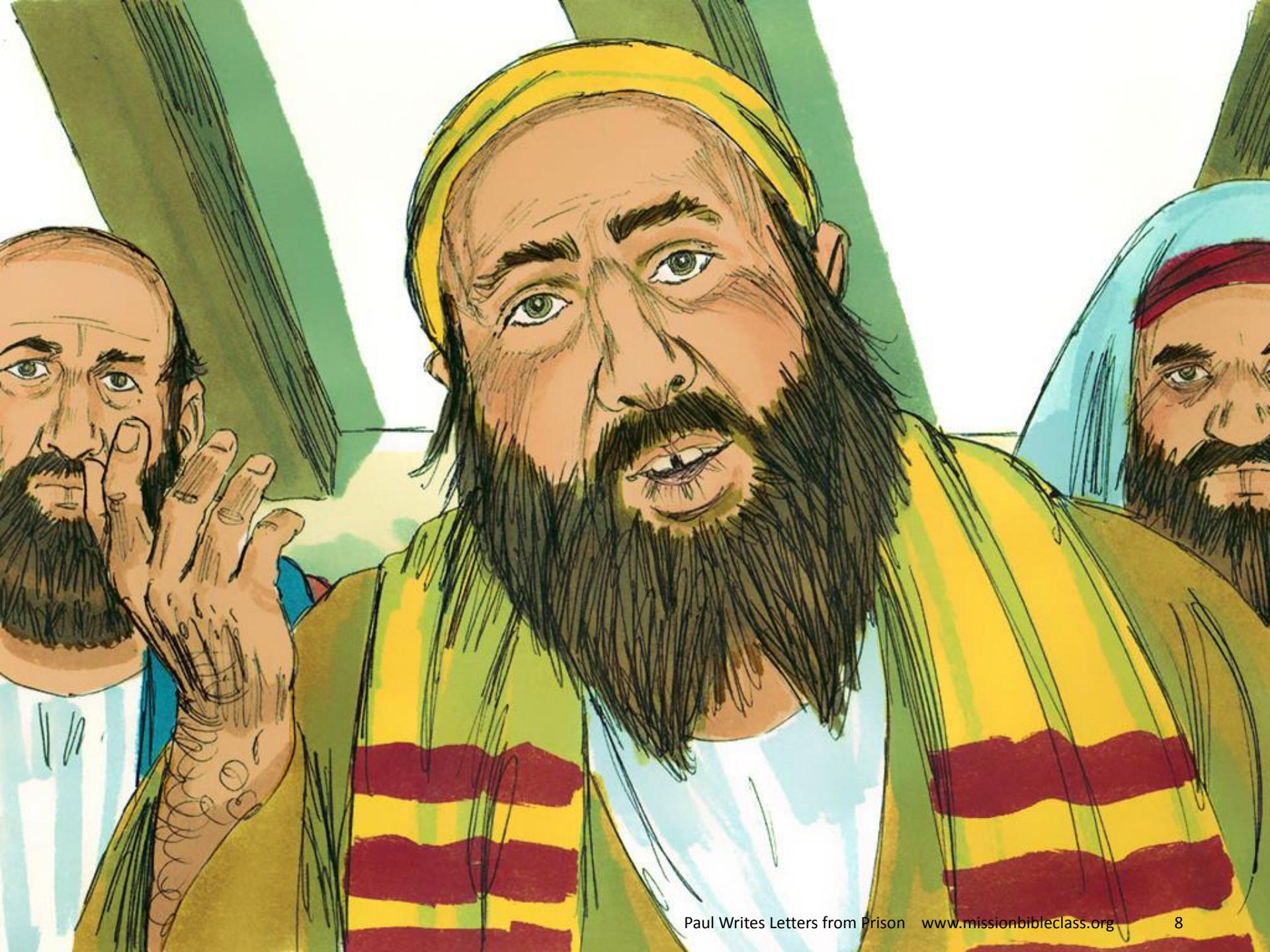
PAUL'S TRIP TO ROME: 58-61 AD





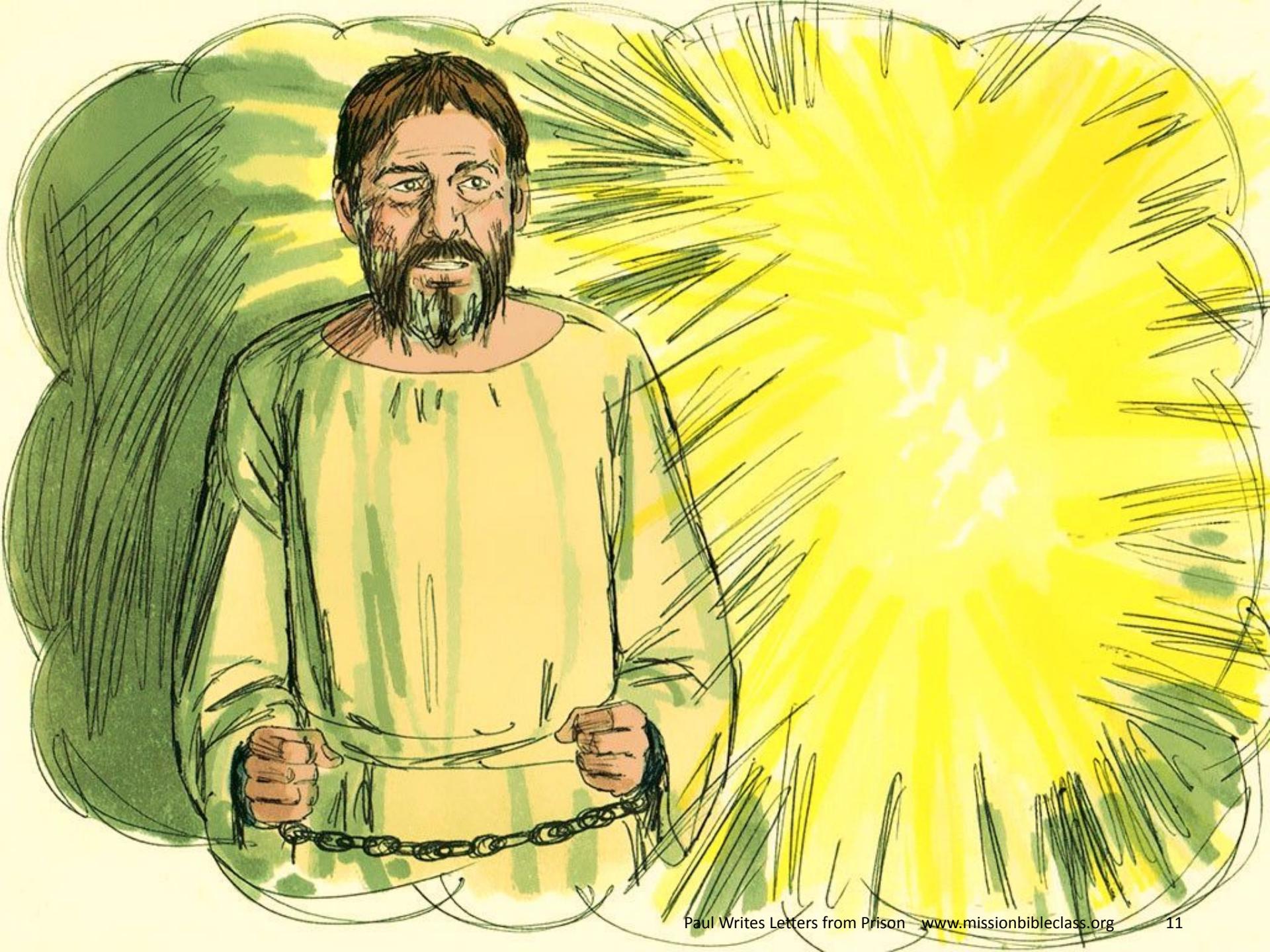












Teacher Notes Page 1

1. Cover: Paul Writes Letters from Prison (Acts 28:11-31)

2. After a long and dangerous journey by ship Paul and the centurion guarding him arrived in Italy.

Paul was still a prisoner because over two years earlier some angry Jews had told lies about him being a troublemaker. But Paul was not a troublemaker. Wherever he went Paul always told people about Jesus.

3. Paul had known for quite some time that God wanted him to go to Rome to talk to people about Jesus. So during his court trials back in Caesarea Paul had told the governor that he wanted to stop doing trials in Caesarea and to go straight to Rome to appear before the emperor, Caesar.

Time passed but finally Paul and a Roman guard were put on a ship and sent to Rome. It was a dangerous trip but even though there was a shipwreck God kept Paul and everyone on board safe.

4. When Paul was in Rome he was still a prisoner. He was allowed to rent a house to live in but he was always guarded by a soldier.

Paul had to wait a long time before he could appear before Caesar for a trial. What do you think Paul did while he was waiting?

6. Paul would begin teaching in the morning and then keep teaching until the evening. Each day more and more people came to hear Paul preach.

7. Paul taught them about the kingdom of God. Since these people already believed in the Old Testament Paul reminded them that long ago it was written in the Old Testament that God would send a new king to rescue the whole world from the power of sin and death. That king was Jesus. Because he defeated the power of sin and death at the cross and resurrection, he could save people from their sin.

8. Some of the people that Paul taught were so happy to hear that Jesus was God's son. Others did not believe. But still, Paul did not stop sharing the Good News about Jesus.

9. The Bible does not record how Paul's two year imprisonment in Rome concluded nor does it record whether or not Paul had the opportunity to appear before Caesar. But Acts does end by saying that the message continued to be preached without hindrance.

The Bible does, however, record some letters that Paul wrote while he was in prison. God, through the Holy Spirit, helped Paul write some very important letters that helped people know more about following Jesus.

For the rest of his life Paul told people about Jesus. When he could not be with people to tell them he would still tell them in the letters he wrote.

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10. Even when bad things like shipwrecks and prison happened to him Paul did not stop following God. When he was very old this is one of the last things Paul wrote in a letter to his friend, Timothy.

Paul said, “I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Now, a crown is waiting for me. I will get that crown for being right with God.” 2 Timothy 4:7-8a, ICB

Paul was a great man of God.

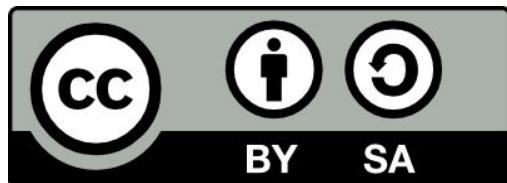
11. Paul wrote letters while he was in prison but he also wrote others before and after that time. Another word for “letters” is “epistles”. If you open your Bible to the New Testament you will find some of the Epistles Paul wrote.

- Romans: to God’s people in Rome
- Corinthians: to the church in Corinth
- Galatians: to the churches of Galatia
- Philippians: to the church in Philippi
- Thessalonians: to the church in Thessalonica
- Ephesians: to the church in Ephesus
- Colossians: to the church in Colossae

Paul also wrote some epistles to people. These people were:

- Philemon
- Timothy and
- Titus

How many of Paul’s epistles can you find in your Bible?



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