

# Everyday FAITH Family Page

H2Oh!

## Law/Gospel

When suffering comes, I respond in fear and thanklessness. **In the midst of my unbelief, Jesus, my Savior, comes to me, promises to calm my fears, and provides me with whatever is best.**

## Bible Words

[God says,] "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Hebrews 13:5

## The Big Picture

The Roman Republic began in 509 BC when elected senators replaced kings. An expansion of territory culminated in defeating Carthage in three Punic wars from 264–146 BC and ruling over the Western Mediterranean. (In the Second Punic War, Hannibal and the Carthage army crossed the Pyrenees and Alps mountains to fight in Italy, but ultimately lost.) After that, a series of civil wars and political conflicts destabilized the Republic. The rise of dictator Julius Caesar resulted in a government led by emperors. Caesar was assassinated in 44 BC. When Octavian, Caesar's adopted son, defeated Mark Antony and Cleopatra in 31 BC, he annexed Egypt and received the new title of *Augustus*. This effectively ended the Roman Republic.

SOURCE: *Roman Empire*, Wikipedia.com

## H2Oh! Rescue: Paul's Shipwreck

Acts 27:13–44

Roman soldiers arrested Paul in the Jerusalem temple to save him from an angry mob. When the Romans heard about a Jewish plot to kill Paul, they secretly sent him to the seaside town of Caesarea. There, the Roman governor, Felix, imprisoned Paul, hoping to receive a bribe for his release.

Two years later, after a change in the Roman administrator, Paul appealed to Caesar, a right of every Roman citizen. Porcius Festus, the new administrator, sent Paul to Rome for trial, accompanied by the Roman centurion Julius and several friends.

Their ship sailed east in the late fall, a treacherous time on the Mediterranean Sea with hard winds and severe storms. Paul warned Julius that they would suffer injury and loss, but the centurion did not listen.

When they encountered trouble, the sailors used their skills to continue sailing. Ultimately, they tossed tackle and cargo overboard during a fourteen-day storm. Trying to land on a Malta beach, the ship struck a reef and broke in pieces. Everyone made it safely to shore.

Three months later, the group took a ship that had wintered in Malta on to Rome. Christians welcomed Paul there. Under house arrest, Paul was guarded by a Roman soldier but could receive visitors. He taught many people about Jesus and the salvation He offers to all who believe in Him.

## The Ministry of St. Paul

Through the work of Paul, God established many Christian churches across Asia, Greece, and Europe. We have letters Paul wrote to these churches as epistles in the New Testament. Once an enemy of Christ, Paul boldly served our Savior, who died to pay for our sins and offer new life and forgiveness to all who believe in Him.

## Prayer

*Dear Lord, thank You for courageous and faithful teachers and preachers. Thank You for preserving Your Word in the Bible. Keep us in true faith in our Savior, Jesus. In His name we pray. Amen.*

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