
ACTS, CHAPTER 28

1. What island did they land on? _____

2. How does verse 2 describe the inhabitants of the island? _____

(These are savages.)

3. Were they kind to the 276 people who landed on their shore? _____

4. Why did they kindle a fire? _____

* Paul mentions the cold in II Corinthians 11:27.

5. What was Paul gathering?

* Paul could have been strutting in pride rather than humbly building the fire! He had just communicated with an angel and had become the hero of everyone aboard the ship, yet he was obeying his Lord's words in Matthew 23:11.

6. What happened as he laid the sticks on the fire? _____

* The natives were present in the crowd. Two-hundred seventy-six people from the ship were trying to warm up after being in the icy waters. It was no coincidence that the viper chose to attack one man among the hundreds. See Job 1:7 and I Peter 5:8.

7. What was the venomous (poisonous) beast doing to Paul's hand? _____

* This is not natural for a snake. They strike and let go! This one literally attached itself to Paul. It was an attack from the enemy. Satan was in a rage. He had failed to destroy Paul by stoning, murderous plots, and a shipwreck. He now sent a viper that fastened itself onto Paul, spewing into him its deadly poison. See John 10:10 and Ephesians 6:11-12 & 16.

8. What did the barbarians think about Paul when they saw this happen? _____

* This is what professing Christians think today when bad things happen to followers of Christ. You may have heard their comments: "They must be doing something wrong!" This was also the reaction of Job's "comforters"! Read the accusation of Eliphaz in Job 22:5.

9. What did Paul do? _____

* What a victory! Rejoice as you read Luke 10:19! Also see Mark 16:18. Poison poured into Paul's body through the sting of the serpent - yet it did not hurt him! Jesus had told Paul that He was sending him to Rome. A mere viper cannot change God's Word!

Has a viper attached itself to you in the form of an addiction, bitterness, unforgiveness, pride, or any other deadly sin? Shake it off into the fire in the name of Jesus! Do what Paul did! Obey James 4:7! God did not shake the beast off for Paul - Paul shook it off! Don't wait for God to resist the devil for you! He told you to resist the devil and he will flee from YOU.

10. What did the barbarians (natives of the islands) expect Paul to do? _____

11. When no harm came to him, what did they decide Paul was? _____

12. Who was Publius? _____

13. What did he do for Paul? _____