



Paul's Protection from a Viper Bite

(Acts 28:1–6)



The apostle Paul was being sent to Rome aboard a ship as a prisoner of the Roman government. Partway through the journey, the ship encountered a bad storm and ran aground. A friend accompanied Paul on the ship, a physician known as Luke. Luke is also the author of the book of Acts and gives the following account.

Once we and the others from the shipwreck had made it ashore, then we knew that the island we were on was Malta.

The local people started a fire, because of the rain and the cold.

When Paul was putting sticks on the fire, a viper came out of the heat and fastened on his hand.

The local people said, “No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he escaped the sea, a type of vengeance is causing him to die.”

Paul shook off the snake into the fire and felt no harm.

After they waited a long time and saw no harm come to him, the local people changed their minds and then said that Paul was a god.

(Paul used this opportunity to be a witness to them about God's Son, Jesus.)