



## 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.)