

# Acts 28:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard: but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him.

## Analysis

**When we came to Rome**—The climax of Acts' geographic progression from Jerusalem to 'the uttermost part of the earth' (1:8). Luke's 'we' indicates his presence with Paul. **Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier** (μένειν καθ' ἐαυτὸν σὺν τῷ φυλάσσοντι αὐτὸν στρατιώτῃ) describes 'custodia libera' (free custody), a privileged form of house arrest for Roman citizens awaiting trial. This arrangement, less restrictive than prison, allowed Paul to receive visitors and conduct ministry. God's providence secured conditions enabling Paul's final epistles (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon) and continued gospel witness.

## Historical Context

Paul arrived in Rome circa AD 60-61 after a perilous Mediterranean journey. House arrest lasted 'two whole years' (Acts 28:30), during which Paul evangelized freely. Roman citizens of means could arrange private lodging with military guard rather than imprisonment.

## Related Passages

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How did God use Paul's restricted circumstances to advance the gospel in unexpected ways?
2. What ministry opportunities exist in your current limitations or confinements?

## Interlinear Text

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Ὅτε δὲ ἦλθομεν εἰς Ἱρώμην ὁ ἐκατόνταρχος  
when And we came to Rome the centurion  
G3753 G1161 G2064 G1519 G4516 G3588 G1543

παρέδωκεν τοὺς δεσμίους τῷ στρατοπεδάρχῃ τῷ δὲ  
delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard And  
G3860 G3588 G1198 G4759 G3588 G1161

Παύλῳ ἐπετράπη μένειν καθ' ἑαυτὸν σὺν τῷ  
Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with G3588  
G3972 G2010 G3306 G2596 G1438 G4862

φυλάσσοντι αὐτὸν στρατιώτῃ  
that kept him a soldier  
G5442 G846 G4757

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 27:3** (References Paul): And the next day we touched at Sidon. And Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself.

**Acts 24:23** (References Paul): And he commanded a centurion to keep Paul, and to let him have liberty, and that he should forbid none of his acquaintance to minister or come unto him.