

Acts 28:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,

Analysis

And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house—The summary of Paul's Roman imprisonment: διετίαν ὅλην (dietian holēn, 'two whole years')—approximately AD 60-62. **His own hired house** (ἰδίω μισθώματι, idiō misthōmati, 'his own rented dwelling') indicates Paul paid for lodging, likely through support from churches (Philippians 4:14-18) or his tentmaking. Though under guard (28:16), he had relative freedom—not a dungeon but house arrest.

And received all that came in unto him—The phrase ἀπεδέχετο πάντας τοὺς εἰσπορευομένους πρὸς αὐτόν (apedecheto pantas tous eisporouomenous pros auton, 'he was welcoming all who came to him') shows unlimited access. Paul's 'prison' became a ministry hub—visitors, churches, inquirers, skeptics all came. During these two years, Paul wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon (the 'Prison Epistles'), which would shape Christian theology for millennia. Chains didn't stop the gospel; they amplified it (Philippians 1:12-14).

Historical Context

Roman house arrest (custodia libera) was for citizens awaiting trial who weren't flight risks. Paul was chained to a rotating guard (28:20, Ephesians 6:20), but could receive visitors, correspond, and minister. The two-year period likely ended with Paul's release (tradition holds he made a fourth missionary journey to Spain before his final arrest and martyrdom c. AD 67-68). Acts' abrupt ending—no verdict, no martyrdom account—suggests Luke wrote before trial concluded. The

open ending is fitting: Paul's ministry continues, the gospel spreads, the story isn't finished—it's still being written through the church.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's rented house ministry demonstrate that God can turn any circumstance—even imprisonment—into gospel opportunity?
2. What does Paul's two-year house arrest teach about patience in waiting for God's timing while remaining faithful in present opportunities?
3. In what ways might your current limitations or waiting periods actually be strategic positions God has placed you for kingdom purposes?

Interlinear Text

ἔμεινεν δὲ ὁ Παῦλος διετίαν ὅλην ἐν ιδίῳ
dwelt And G3588 Paul two whole in his own
G3306 G1161 G3972 G1333 G3650 G1722 G2398

μισθώματι καὶ ἀπεδέχετο πάντας τοὺς εἰσπορευομένους
hired house and received all G3588 that came in
G3410 G2532 G588 G3956 G1531

πρὸς αὐτόν
unto him
G4314 G846