

1. Open the Word of Truth to Acts 28:3. We are studying Paul's journey to Rome. Before we continue our Bible study, you may want to take advantage of God's protocol for fellowship by silently naming your sins to God as we pray.
2. Last week I exegeted Acts 28:2 and when time expired we were analyzing verse three and the phrase "on the fire."
3. Before we resume our analysis, I want us to take a look at a map of the journey to Rome and then review an expanded translation of Acts 28:1-2.

### Expanded Translation

**Acts 28:1 And after we had been washed safely to shore we discovered the name of the Island was Malta.**

**Acts 28:2 And the islanders were most welcoming, bestowing upon us significant kindnesses; they first built a warm fire around which we warmed ourselves; they also provided food, warm blankets and shelter from the rain and cold.**

4. So far we have exegeted that portion of Acts 28:3 which in the KJV has been rendered "And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them" noting it might better be translated "**Paul gathered a pile of brushwood, and as he put it ...**"
5. The entire verse has been translated:

KJV-New Sentence

Acts 28:3 And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand.

6. And now for the phrase "on the fire."

ON THE FIRE ΕΠΙ Ο ΠΥΡ

1. **Epi Ho Pur** is well translated "upon the fire."
2. **Epi** is a preposition followed by the monadic noun **Pur** declined as an accusative singular.
3. **Pur** is the common Greek word for fire. Let's take a look at how **Pur** is used in the New Testament.

- of the holiness of God, which consumes all that is inconsistent therewith, Heb 10:27-31

Heb 10:27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and "**fiery**" indignation, which

shall devour the adversaries.

Heb 10:28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

Heb 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

Heb 10:30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

Heb 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

- of the holy angels as His ministers, Heb 1:7

Heb 1:7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of "**fire**"

- of that which tries the faith of saints, producing what will glorify the Lord, Rev 3:18

Rev 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the "**fire**," that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

- of the divine judgment, testing the deeds of believers, at the Bema, 1Co 3:13-15

1Co 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by "**fire**;" and the "**fire**" shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

1Co 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

1Co 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by "**fire**."

- of the fire of divine judgment upon the rejectors of Christ, Luk 3:16

Luk 3:16 John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with "**fire**:"

Luk 3:17 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.

4. And now for the phrase "there came a viper."

THERE CAME A VIPER    **εξερχομαι**    **εχιδνα**

1. **Exerchomai Echidna** is better translated "a poisonous snake driven ..."

2. **Exerchomai** is a verb parsed as an aorist active (deponent) participle followed by the noun **Echidna** declined as a nominative singular.

3. **Exerchomai** is a compound consisting of **Ek** meaning out from and **Erchomai** meaning, "to go, to come" or "he went." **Ek** as a prefix became for euphonic purposes **Ex. Exerchomai** is a stronger verb than **Erchomai**.

3.1 The snake was driven out of the pile of kindling by the heat of the fire. Let me give you three other uses found in the New Testament of **Exerchomai**.

Mat 2:6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee "**shall come**" a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Mat 15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth "**come forth**" from the heart; and they defile the man.

Mat 15:19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

Acts 16:16 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

Acts 16:17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

Acts 16:18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

Acts 16:19 And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains "**was gone**," they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers,

Acts 16:20 And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city,

4. Vines in his lexicon has written of **Echidna**, "**Echidna** is probably a generic term for "poisonous snakes." It is rendered "viper" in the New Testament, (a) of the actual creature, Acts 28:3; (b) metaphorically in Mat 3:7, 12:34; 23:33 and Luk 3:7.

Mat 3:7 But when John the Baptist saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of "**vipers**," who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Mat 12:34 O generation of "**vipers**," how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

Mat 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Mat 23:33 Ye serpents, ye generation of "**vipers**," how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

Mat 23:34 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

Luk 3:7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of **"vipers!"** Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

Luk 3:8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

Luk 3:9 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

4.1 There are several species of vipers (Viperidae) in South West Asia, all poisonous with curved fangs that spring down when ready to strike; they are difficult to identify exactly. The extremely venomous horned viper which is found in Palestine may attack horses and other large farm animals. It is twelve to eighteen inches long. It lies in ambush, sometimes burrowing in the sand so that only the two eyes and the horn-like protrusions on its head are visible. These two "horns" may be employed as bait for small birds which frequent caravan routes looking for refuse. The viper of our verse may be the horned viper.

5. Now for the phrase "out of the heat."

OUT OF THE HEAT, **απο ο θερμη**

1. **Apo Ho Therme** is better translated "from the heat ..."

2. **Apo** is a preposition followed by the monadic noun **Therme** declined as a genitive singular.

3. **Therme** is a hapaxlegomenon. Clearly we get our English word "thermal," from this Greek word. The verb form of **Therme** is **Thermainomai** and there are two related words--**Theros** and **Thermos**.

Let me give you a summary of **Therme** and its derivatives.

### 3.1 **Thermainomai**

Joh 18:18 And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and **"they warmed"** themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself.

Peter's Second and Third Denials

Joh 18:25 And Simon Peter stood and **"warmed"** himself. They said therefore unto him, Art not thou also one of his disciples? He denied it, and said, I am not.

Jam 2:16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, **"be ye warmed"** and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth

it profit?

### 3.2 **Theros**

Mar 13:28 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that "**summer**" is near:

3.3 Arnt and Gingrich describe Josephus's use of **Therme** for different types of heat and Homer's use of **Thermos** for warming water for baptism.

4. Now for the phrase "and fastened."

AND FASTENED      ΚΑΘΑΠΤΩ

1. **Kathapto** is better translated "and as Paul warmed his hands by the fire the snake fastened its fangs ..."

2. **Kathapto** is a verb parsed as a 3rd person singular, aorist active indicative.

3. **Kathapto** is a hapaxlegomenon. It is a compound consisting of **Kata** meaning "down upon" and **Hapto** meaning "to fasten" or "to light upon" or "to kindle or light a fire or candle."

3.1 Several uses of **Hapto** found elsewhere in the New Testament are as follows:

Luk 8:16 No man, when he "**hath lighted**" a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light.

Luk 11:33 No man, when he "**hath lighted**" a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.

Luk 15:8 Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not "**light**" a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?

Luk 22:55 And when they "**had kindled**" a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them.

Luk 22:56 But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him.

ON HIS HAND.    Ο   ΧΕΙΡ   ΑΥΤΟΣ

1. **Ho Cheir Autos** is better "into Paul's hand."

2. **Cheir** is a monadic noun followed by the intensive pronoun **Autos** declined as a genitive singular.

3. **Cheir** is the common Greek word for hand. Five other uses found in the New

Testament are as follows:

Mat 4:6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their "**hands**" they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked "**hands**" have crucified and slain:

End Lesson Taught 10-25-09