

## Acts Chapter 27

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- Paul is all done in Caesarea, he's testified of Jesus to Festus, Agrippa, and Bernice, along with all the officers of the court, and as we left off in Acts 26 he's being passed off to Caesar Nero in Rome.

V: 1 Paul begins his journey to Italy and Rome along with another group of prisoners.

- Paul is in the custody of Julius, a centurion of the Augustine band. It seems that every mention of a centurion in the Bible describes an honorable man, they were each handpicked, and in command of 100 men.
- The Augustine band meant that he was part of Emperor Nero's personal guard, and elite position. We see in our text that Paul and Julius seem to have hit it off well. God gave Paul favor with Julius.

*“When it was determined / decided...”* When was it decided?

**Acts 23:11** “And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of Me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.”

- Who decided? It was God who sent Paul to Rome. God used Felix, Festus, and Agrippa to accomplish that, but it was God who decided.

**Psalm 37:23** “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and He delighteth in his way.”

- God certainly used Paul as well. So often the Lord plants His will in our hearts, plants that desire long before it's fulfillment - then as events unfold we're blessed to be enabled to do that thing which we desire to do only to discover that it was God's will all along, and to experience the joy of knowing that you're in the will of God.
- Paul desired to go to Rome, and here he is now on his way to Rome. God's happy, Paul's happy. God is magnified!

*“It was determined that we should sail to Italy...”*

- Luke, the writer of this account accompanied Paul on his trip to Rome.

V: 2-3 They boarded a ship there in Caesarea that was from Adramyttium. (Asia Minor, Edremit, Turkey).



- Aristarchus, from Thessalonica, who we met earlier in Ephesus also accompanied Paul. He was one of the believers who was taken by the crowd into the arena by Demetrius the silver smith. He actually stays with Paul most of the time and ministers to him in prison in Rome as Paul will later describe.
- They board the ship and take a short 70 mile hop to Sidon.
- While at Sidon, Julius the centurion gives Paul liberty to visit with his friends. Perhaps he had a soldier accompany Paul, but this is extraordinary given that if Paul were to escape with a death sentence on his head, Julius would receive his punishment or sentence. Paul must have really impressed Julius, perhaps he even led him to the Lord.
- Speculation: It is not unreasonable to think that perhaps Julius was in the room when Paul gave his testimony before Festus and Agrippa.

V: 4-8 Travel-log: Past Cyprus - contrary or opposing winds: If Jesus wants Paul to go to Rome, then that would mean that the Devil would want to stop him, or at the least make it more difficult - spiritual warfare.



**Ephesians 2:2** "... according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."

- Just because Jesus said it was going to happen didn't mean that it would be easy.

**John 16:33** "These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

- They continued to move west across the Mediterranean, sailing around Cyprus and onto Myra where they switched ships, presumably to a larger ship, more than likely a grain ship, moving grain from the area of Alexandria to Rome.
- They set off again slowly, the wind not allowing them. Resistance, warfare.
- Coming to Crete, Salome, Lasea / Fair Havens.

V: 9-12 They had spent a fair amount of time in Fair Havens, waiting for a favorable opportunity to sail, but the safe sailing season was soon past.

- Time frame is around Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement which came in the middle of October at about which time they generally stopped sailing on the open seas because of the heavy seas and storms, it all became too dangerous.

- Paul admonishes them to wait it out and not to sail on because it will result in disaster.
- Paul probably didn't know a lot about sailing; but the God who speaks to him certainly does.
- Paul was a tentmaker by trade, a rabbi by profession, and a prisoner by decree, but the fact that he had been shipwrecked three times and had spent an entire day and night in the deep might have qualified him to give advice concerning the dangers of the sea.
- It would appear that he was speaking in the Spirit because the things he described and warned about all came to pass.
- The centurion liked Paul, but he went with the knowledge and experience of the expert / captain.
- The Fair Haven wasn't a good place to spend the winter they probably figured they needed to get going before things became worse. Their plan was to get to Phenice or Phoenix at the western part of Crete and wait it out there.
- Phenice is described as a "haven" or a safe place. There they could wait out the winter storms. This would end up being a 7 month trip from Caesarea to Rome, August to March.

V: 13-17 Seeing the "soft south wind" they thought they saw their opportunity. They intended to stay close to shore and follow it around to Phenice, but they got caught and driven farther out to sea.

- The wind blew softly and in the right direction; that's how it always is when you don't listen to the Spirit, then you end up in a hurricane.

**Isaiah 28:16** "... he that believeth shall not make haste."

- Euroclydon: Tempestuous winds that wreak havoc.
- The ships of those days were about 140 feet long, 30 or so feet wide, and a draft of 36 feet. Along with the grain they were transporting they could accommodate about 276 passengers. They had a single mast and square sail which was good if the wind was behind you, but very difficult otherwise.
- <sup>16</sup>With difficulty they passed a small island called Claudia, about 30 miles southeast of Crete.
- They were dragging a dingy behind the ship which with great difficulty they were able to pull in and stow on the deck so that it wouldn't run into the main ship.

- <sup>17</sup>What they were doing was known as “frapping.” Taking large ropes, they wrapped them under the ship They wrapped the ship under the keel and over the top, tightening the ropes with a wench to help hold it together during the storms. There are also sand bars out in the Mediterranean that move and shift with the seas and are a real hazard to ships which could run aground on them.
- The storm is raging so they struck or lowered their sail, and they are literally just being driven along out of their control.

V: 18 In an attempt to ride higher on the water, because the wave were breaking over the sides of the ship - they “lightened” the ship meaning they started throwing their cargo / grain overboard. They are officially in survival mode now, trying not to sink.

V: 19-21 They continued in their extreme survival measures - they threw the rope and tackle overboard - you can't do much with a sailing ship without that stuff.

- The storm was so bad that they hadn't seen the sun or the moon for several days and they started to loose hope which is when Paul steps in with words of encouragement

“<sup>21b</sup>... you should have listened to me.... I told you so...”

- The captain and the centurion might be thinking that we can lighten the ship just a little more - then it will be up Jonah's big fish to get Paul to Rome...

V: 22 Now the real encouragement: No one is going to die. The ship is a goner but no-one is going to die.

- The storm is raging, they're being tossed around, everyone is green and queasy with sea sickness and Paul says “be of good cheer...” (Acts 23:11)
- These are the same words that Jesus spoke to the paralytic man being lowered through the roof by his friends:

**Matthew 9:2** “Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.”

- The same words He spoke to the woman with an issue of blood 12 years:

**Matthew 9:22** “Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole.”

- The same words that He spoke to His disciples when they were rowing through the stormy sea of Galilee, they were afraid he was a ghost.

**Matthew 14:27** “Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.”

- What storm you're going through: If you're a son, or a daughter, or a disciple then we can be of good cheer!

V: 23 How do you know? God spoke to me. God said it, it's going to happen!

V: 24 The Lord reminded Paul of what had been decided at the beginning of this chapter, that he would testify before Caesar in Rome.

- Just like when Jesus said let's go to the other side of the lake. The storm didn't matter, they got to the other side.
- Paul assures the other men on the ship that they will be spared because "...God hath given thee all them that sail with thee."
- Why did God give them to Paul? Because he was asking!

**James 4:2** "... ye have not because he ask not."

**James 5:16** "... The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

- You can bet that as conditions worsened on that ship that there were plenty of men who were praying to their various gods - Paul lets them know his God, the True and Living God he is the One who hears and he is the One who will save them.

V: 25-26 Paul exhorts them to cheer up, it's gonna be all right.

- God is faithful, He will accomplish that which He has declared.

"<sup>26</sup>We must be cast upon a certain island." Meaning that God is directing and guiding this "rudderless" ship to its final destination, just as He is guiding us!

V: 27-44 Adventure on the high seas!