

## Acts Chapter 27 Handout

Chapters 27 and 28 tell of Paul's journey to Rome and what happens when he finally arrives there.

Important names: Julius, centurion taking prisoners to Rome from Caesarea; Aristarchus of Thessalonica, and Luke (both accompany Paul on trip to Rome). THE VOYAGE: From CAESAREA catch a ship of Adramyttium---SIDON (refresh and supplies)---MYRA (a city of Lycia; catch a ship of Alexandria sailing to Italy)---FAIR HAVENS (port near city of Lasea in Crete)---CLAUDA (island 23 miles out to sea from Crete)---MELITA (Malta)

Other names: Euroclydon (northeaster) a tempestuous wind; the quicksands (Syrtis) graveyard of many ships off coast of North Africa; Adria (eastern Mediterranean sea); Cnidus (pronounced ny dus); stern (rear); tackling (ropes and rigging which support the masts, and move sails up and down, etc.); helps (cables or ropes): The fast (Day of Atonement); Phenice (Phoenix, 40 miles from Fair Havens and better to winter in); 276 people; fourteen days no eating.

v.1-8 Julius, centurion of the August band or special imperial troupe, was to escort Paul and other prisoners to Rome. It probably was his regular assignment. They mounted a ship headed for Adramyttium, Aristarchus of Thessalonica and Luke, the writer of Acts, accompanying Paul. As a Roman citizen, Paul probably had this privilege which allowed companions, provided that they pay their own way. First they stopped at Sidon where Julius gave Paul liberty to see friends and refresh himself, and also get supplies. They then sailed close to Cyprus until arriving at Myra where they changed to a larger ship coming from Alexandria transporting wheat to Italy. There were now 276 people aboard. These large ships could handle more than 600. At Cnidus they had to change course because of the winds, traveling south until arriving at Fair Havens on Crete.

v.8-12 They had now lost a lot of time, the fast or Day of Atonement being past, it was after the end of September or beginning of October when the weather was bad for sailing. By mid November it's almost impossible to sail. Paul warns them to stay in Fair Havens but Julius listens to the captain and the owner of the ship and agrees to try for Phoenix, 40 miles away, which is a better port to winter in.

v.13-20 They sail close to Crete but Euroclydon (Northeaster) arises and blows them out to sea. They couldn't fight the wind so they just let it carry the ship. Coming to island, Clauda, they work to keep the boat in place. Then they gird up the ship with ropes and cables; wrapped around the ship to help it stand the storm. They had been towing a lifeboat but pulled it into the ship. They lowered the sail and let the ship drift along because they did not want to hit the sandbars at Syrtis, the graveyard of ships off coast of North Africa. The second day they threw the cargo overboard, and the third day they threw the ship's gear (tackle) overboard to make ship lighter so it would ride higher on the waves. The sky was dark so there was no way of navigating. All hope was gone.

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### Page Two

v.21-26 Paul speaks and reprimands them for not listening to him about not leaving Crete and then he lets them know they will not die because an angel assured him that he must appear before Caesar. And because they are with him, they will all be saved but first they will be shipwrecked on some island.

v.27-32- After fourteen days and nights the sailors realized they were getting near land. They sounded, meaning they measured the depth of the water by dropping something down to measure, first 120 feet, then 90 feet, water was becoming more shallow. Then they dropped four anchors from the stern, which is the rear, to keep ship from going into the rocks. They now prayed for daylight. v.30 the sailors under pretense of letting down anchors in the front of the ship, were letting down that lifeboat so they could escape. But Paul warned Julius that except they (the sailors) abide in the ship, you cannot be saved. The soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat and let it drop.

v. 33-44 Paul then encouraged everyone to eat since they had not eaten for fourteen days. After eating they threw out the cargo of wheat to lighten the ship. In the morning they saw a cove and a beach, and tried to make the ship run aground on the beach. They raised the anchors, hoisted the main sail to the wind going toward the shore. But they hit a sand bar and the rear of the ship was being broken up by exposure to violent waves. The soldiers were going to kill the prisoners lest they escape and the soldiers be held accountable, and be put to death. But Julius, wanting to save Paul stopped them from killing anyone and told them all to swim for shore or hold on to plans of the ship. All 276 made it safely to shore.

Those who were with Paul were saved because of the favor of God on his life, and because of the purpose God had determined for his life. If you walk and live according to God's purpose for your life, others near you will be blessed and saved.