

ACTS

of the Holy Spirit

Session #37 – 27:1 – 27:44

I. Paul Sails to Phoenix (27:1 - 12)

Verse 1

When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners (267 men in total) were handed over to a centurion [Roman Military Officer] named Julius, (soft-haired) who belonged to the Imperial Regiment. [Augustan

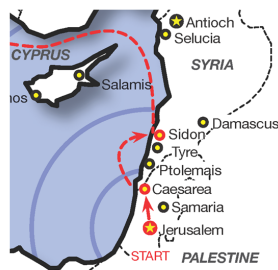


Verse 2

We boarded a ship from Adramyttium [sea port – Mysia] about to sail for ports along the coast [merchant vessel] of the province of Asia, and we put out to sea. [Luke is including himself] Aristarchus, [Paul's companion – Acts. 19:29; 20:4; Col. 4:10] a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was with us.

Verse 3

The next day we landed at Sidon; and Julius, in kindness to Paul, (philanthropos) allowed him to go to his friends so they might provide for his needs.



Verse 4

From there we put out to sea again and passed to the lee of Cyprus because the winds were against us.

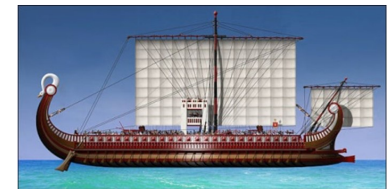
Verse 5

When we had sailed across the open sea off the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra in Lycia.



Verse 6

There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy and put us on board.



Verse 7

We made slow headway for many days and had difficulty arriving off Cnidus. When the wind did not allow us to hold our course, we sailed to the lee of Crete, opposite Salmone.



Verse 8

We moved along the coast with difficulty and came to a place called Fair Havens,

This name “Fair Havens” was a paradoxical nick-name because this place is known for its dramatic and dangerous storms based on its orientation to the winds. near the town of Lasea.

Verse 9

Much time had been lost, and sailing had already become dangerous because by now it was after the Day of Atonement. So Paul warned (paraineo = strongly recommend) them,

Note: Paul was not a sailor, but he had extensive experience on the sea from his many travels. Paul was not speaking as a prophet but as an experienced traveler. (3,500 + miles and 3 shipwrecks!)

The Day of Atonement in 59 AD was Oct. 5th – The middle of the Winter season – winds change direction and get dangerous.

Verse 10

“Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also.”

Verse 11

But the centurion,
instead of listening to what Paul said,
followed the advice
of the pilot (experience/authority)
and of the owner of the ship. (risk/value)

Verse 12

Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in,
the majority decided that we should sail on,
hoping to reach Phoenix and winter there.
This was a harbor in Crete,
facing both southwest and northwest.

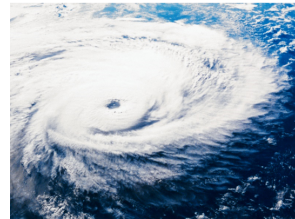
II. The Storm (27:13 - 26)

Verse 13

When a gentle south wind began to blow,
they saw their opportunity;
so they weighed anchor
and sailed along the shore of Crete.

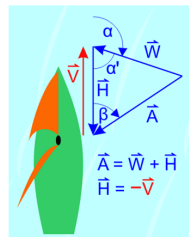
Verse 14

[but]
Before very long,
a wind of hurricane force,
[Euraquilo = a Levanter = monster wind]
called the Northeaster,
swept down from the island.



Verse 15

The ship was caught (synarpazo = lay hold/seize by force)
by the storm
and could not head into [face] the wind;
so we gave way to it
and were driven along.



Verse 16

As we passed to the lee of a small island
called Cauda,
we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure,

The lifeboat was traditionally towed behind the boat, but was taken aboard in bad weather. This was the first sign that the sailors were preparing for the worst.

Verse 17

so the men hoisted it aboard.
Then they passed ropes under the ship itself
to hold it together.

Sign number two – “frapping” – tying the ship together
Because they were afraid
they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis,
they lowered the sea anchor [sign three – slowing down]
and let the ship be driven along.

Verse 18

We took such a violent battering from the storm
that the next day
they began to throw the cargo overboard. [sign four –
lighten the load – makes the ship sit higher in the water]

Verse 19

On the third day, [fatigue is setting in]
they threw the ship's tackle (furniture and utensils)
overboard [sign #5 – lighten the load – less likely to run
aground against reefs or sandbars]
with their own hands.

Verse 20

When neither sun nor stars appeared
for many days [navigation]
and the storm continued raging,
we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

Paul's experience as a traveler was ignored, but now he has an opportunity to provide his experience in faith in the midst of tribulation.

Verse 21

After they had gone a long time without food,
[both fear and seasickness]

Paul stood up before them and said:
“Men, you should have taken my advice
not to sail from Crete;
then you would have spared yourselves
this damage and loss.

Verse 22

But now I urge you to keep up your courage,
(euthymeo = good spirits – cheerful attitude)
because not one of you will be lost;
only the ship will be destroyed.

Paul makes a bold promise.

Verse 23

[for] – proof statement

Last night

an angel (aggelos) of the God to whom I belong
and whom I serve (latreuo = as a minister) stood beside me

Not a dream/vision – a physical appearance

Verse 24

and said,

Same word

- 1) 'Do not be afraid. (phobeo = fear of something) Paul.
- 2) You must stand trial before Caesar;
- 3) and God has graciously given you

(charizomai = granted favor)

the lives of all who sail with you.'

This is a huge sign of Paul's credibility because the story is not over yet! Everyone HAS to survive to prove Paul's authenticity!

Verse 25

So keep up your courage, men,
for I have faith [in] God

Note: The Greek says pisteuo theos = "I believe God" not "I believe in God" – even the demons know that God exists!

that it will happen just as he told me.

Faith is a confidence that God acts according to His word!
Paul used his faith to encourage others!

Verse 26

Nevertheless,
we must run aground
on (some) island."

Note: God did not tell Paul where, when, and how – there remains a level of general faith in everything.

III. The Shipwreck (27:27 - 44)

Verse 27

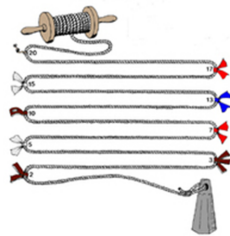
On the fourteenth night [of the storm]
we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea,
when about midnight
the sailors sensed they were approaching land.

Probably hearing the waves breaking.

Verse 28

They took soundings
and found that the water was
a hundred and twenty feet deep. [20]
A short time later
they took soundings again
and found it was ninety feet deep. [15]

Water is shallowing – hitting a reef too far from shore is death!



Verse 29

Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks,
they dropped four anchors [Sign #6 – holding the ship stable
in place – most storms require only two anchors to secure the
boat – this illustrates the strength of this storm]

from the stern [rear of the ship]

and prayed (euchomai = wish for good) for daylight.

Verse 30

[but]

In an attempt to escape from the ship, [cover of darkness]
the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea,
pretending they were going to lower some anchors
from the bow.

Verse 31

Then Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers,
"Unless these men stay with the ship,
you cannot be saved."

The flight of the crew would kill everybody! Paul alerts the
soldiers to keep this from happening.

Also, the promise said "all". Free will is still in play!

Verse 32

So the soldiers cut the ropes
that held the lifeboat
and let it drift away.

All means of escape have been erased. They live or die together!

The truth is, even though we know what God says, we still tend
to try to save ourselves through our human means first.

Verse 33

Just before dawn

Paul urged them all to eat.

"For the last fourteen days," he said,
"you have been in constant suspense
and have gone without food—
you haven't eaten anything.

Verse 34

Now I urge you to take some food.

You need it to survive.

Not one of you will lose a single hair
from his head." [Trust my God]

In the midst of the storms or our lives, we can tend to get so
focused on the storm that we neglect our personal and spiritual
needs – leading to further storms!

Verse 35

After he said this,
he took some bread
and gave thanks to God
in front of them all.
Then he broke it
and began to eat.

Sounds similar to the
wordings used in Holy
Communion by Christ

Verse 36

They were all encouraged (euthymos = cheered up)
and ate some food themselves.

Verse 37

Altogether there were 276 of us on board.

Verse 38

When they had eaten as much as they wanted,
they lightened the ship [sign #7 – final weight removed]
by throwing the grain into the sea. [profit margin]

Verse 39

When daylight came,
they did not recognize the 1) land, [Malta]
but they saw 2) a bay with 3) a sandy beach,
where they decided to run the ship aground
if they could.



Verse 40

Cutting loose the anchors,
they left them in the sea
and at the same time untied the ropes
that held the rudders.
Then they hoisted the foresail
to the wind
and made for the beach.

Verse 41

But the ship struck a sandbar (topos dithalassos reef 2 seas)
and ran aground.
The bow stuck fast and would not move,
and the stern was broken to pieces
by the pounding of the surf.

Verse 42

The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners
to prevent any of them from swimming away
and escaping.

Verse 43

But the centurion wanted to spare Paul's life
and kept them from carrying out their plan.
He ordered those who could swim
to jump overboard first and get to land.

Verse 44

The rest were to get there on planks
or on other pieces of the ship.
In this way everyone reached land safely. [promise
fulfilled] – Rom. 8:28