

Paul—Acts 27

Paul Sets Sail as Prisoner; Is Shipwrecked

I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

01. **27:2... Adramyttium**—“A city of Asia Minor on the coast of Mysia, which in early times was called Eolis. The ship in which Paul embarked at Caesarea belonged to this city ([Act 27:2](#)). He was conveyed in it only to Myra, in Lycia, whence he sailed in an Alexandrian ship to Italy” [*Easton’s Bible Dictionary*]. **Aristarchus**—“Aristarchus: of Thessalonica. Paul’s companion on his third missionary tour, and dragged into the theater with Gaius by the mob at Ephesus; he accompanied Paul to Asia, afterward to Rome ([Act 19:29](#); [Act 20:4](#); [Act 27:2](#)). Paul calls him ‘my fellow prisoner’ (lit. fellow captive, namely, in the Christian warfare), ‘my fellow laborer,’ in his epistles from Rome ([Col 4:10](#); [Phm 1:24](#))” [*Fausset’s Bible Dictionary*].
02. **27:4... Cyprus**—“One of the largest islands of the Mediterranean - about 148 miles long and 40 broad. It is distant about 60 miles from the Syrian coast. It was the ‘Chittim’ of the Old Testament ([Num 24:24](#))” [*Easton’s Bible Dictionary*].
03. **27:5... Myra**—“One of the chief towns of Lycia, in Asia Minor, about 2 1/2 miles from the coast ([Act 27:5](#)). Here Paul removed from the Adramyttian ship in which he had sailed from Caesarea, and entered into the Alexandrian ship, which was afterwards wrecked at Melita ([Act 27:39-44](#))” [*Easton’s Bible Dictionary*].
04. **27:8... Fair Havens**—“A harbour in the south of Crete, some 5 miles to the east of which was the town of Lasea ([Act 27:8](#)). Here the ship of Alexandria in which Paul and his companions sailed was detained a considerable time waiting for a favourable wind. Contrary to Paul’s advice, the master of the ship determined to prosecute the voyage, as the harbour was deemed incommodious for wintering in ([Act 27:9-12](#)). The result was that, after a stormy voyage, the vessel was finally wrecked on the coast of Malta ([Act 27:40-44](#))” [*Easton’s Bible Dictionary*].
05. **27:9... the fast was now already past**—“...that of the day of atonement, answering to the end of *September* and beginning of *October*, about which time the navigation is pronounced unsafe by writers of authority. Since all hope of completing the voyage during that season was abandoned, the question next was, whether they should winter at Fair Havens, or move to Port Phenice, a harbor about forty miles to the westward. Paul assisted at the consultation and strongly urged them to winter where they were” [JFB Commentary]. ||||| “The Mediterranean was not safe for ancient vessels after September 15 until about March 15” [Coffman].
06. **27:17... they used helps undergirding the ship**—“...to undergird the ship, a process called *frapping* in modern style, which consists in passing heavy cables under the hull, and fastening them securely on the deck, to prevent the timbers from parting under the force of the waves” [J.W. McGarvey].
07. **27:29... they cast out four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day**—“Immediately they lowered four anchors from the stern—the back end of the ship, to keep the ship away from the shore if possible. They wished for day so that they could see what danger, if any, they were facing” [Harold Littrell, *A Commentary on the Book of Acts*, p. 352].

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **The Period of the Church.**

III. Summary.

Paul's trip to Rome is certainly an exciting one! He gives advanced warning that it would be dangerous to try to sail at the time the captain of the ship was intending to do so. The will of the owner of the ship, however, was carried out and they sailed off past the time of safe sailing. Sure enough, the EUROCLYDON (what we might call a "northeaster") wind caused havoc with the ship and led to the emptying of the cargo, casting out the tackling, and eventually a wreck. Paul informed those on board of an announcement he had received from an angel, which guaranteed him once again that he would make it to Rome, and this time also that the fellow passengers would likewise be safe. Even so, some of the sailors were so desperate that they sought to sneak away on the small boat. Paul brought it to the attention of Julius and he and his soldiers put a stop to their escape by releasing the boat. Altogether, 276 folks were on board this ship. Though the ship was eventually destroyed when it went aground, all made it to shore safely.

IV. Outline.

1. IN THE SHIP AT ADRAMYTTIUM (Acts 27:1-5).
 - 1) The company on board (1-2).
 - 2) From Caesarea to Sidon (3).
 - 3) Along the coast of Cyprus (3-4).
 - 4) To Myra in Lycia (5).
2. IN THE SHIP OF ALEXANDRIA (27:6-13).
 - 1) From Myra to Crete (6-7).
 - 2) To the Port of Fair Havens in Crete (8).
 - 3) Paul's advice to the captain (9-10).
 - 4) They sail for the Port of Phenice in Crete (11-13).
3. THE STORM (27:14-29).
 - 1) The "Euroclydon" (14-16).
 - 2) Undergirding the ship (17).
 - 3) Lightening the ship (18).
 - 4) A very desperate situation (19-20).
 - 5) Paul's vision brings cheer to all (21-26).
 - 6) Nearing an unknown shore (27-28).
 - 7) Casting anchor (29).
4. THE SHIPWRECK (27:30-44).
 - 1) The sailors attempt to desert the ship (30).
 - 2) The attempted desertion is foiled by Paul (31-32).
 - 3) Paul persuades the company to eat and be of good courage (33-34).
 - 4) Paul's prayer of thanksgiving (35).
 - 5) The number on board ship is 276 (37).
 - 6) They cast the wheat cargo overboard (38).
 - 7) Morning—they make for shore (39-40).
 - 8) All escape to the shore of Malta (42-44).

--Adapted from H. Leo Boles, *A Commentary on Acts of the Apostles*.

V. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ There were more than 300 on board the ship with Paul before it wrecked.
02. _____ Even though he was a prisoner, Paul was allowed to leave the ship at Sidon.
03. _____ Paul's confidence in the protecting "hand" of God had little impact on the others aboard the storm-tossed ship.
04. _____ EROCYCLDON was one of Paul's traveling companions on this voyage to Rome.
05. _____ In a manner of speaking, it could be said that Paul took the opportunity to say: I TOLD YOU SO.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ When Paul and his company first left MYRA, how was the sailing: (a) smooth; (b) slow; (c) rough.
07. _____ WE LET HER DRIVE has reference to: (a) the centurion's wife; (b) allowing the wind to take the ship where it would; (c) neither a nor b.
08. _____ How many days had the sailors not taken any food before Paul persuaded them to eat: (a) 3; (b) 7; (c) 13.
09. _____ The time when land was spotted was about: (a) the first watch of the night; (b) midnight; (c) 3:00 a.m.
10. _____ What was Paul's exhortation to those on the ship with him in the midst of a terrible storm: (a) don't despair; (b) be of good cheer; (c) abandon ship.

Fill in the Blanks

11. **God hath given thee _____ that _____ with thee ... And so it came to pass that they _____ safe to _____.**
12. _____ a city of _____ was the place that Paul and his company boarded the ship that would eventually wreck.
13. **And when neither _____ nor _____ in many days appeared, and no small _____ lay on us, all _____ that we should be _____ was then taken away.**
14. The centurion SHOULD have believed _____, but instead he believed the _____ and _____ of the ship.
15. When the shipmen sounded and found it _____ fathoms, they feared, cast out anchors, and _____ for the _____.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week's handout

ANSWERS to Acts 26 Questions... [(1) False, Acts 26:31; (2) True, Acts 26:4; (3) False, Acts 26:24; (4) True, Acts 26:13; (5) False, Acts 26:20; (6) c, Acts 26:5; (7) b, Acts 26:10; (8) c, Acts 26:22; (9) c, Acts 26:14; (10) a, Acts 26:16; (11) Patiently, Acts 26:3; (12) death, bonds, liberty, appealed, Acts 26:31-32; (13) thing, incredible, Acts 26:8; (14) Witness, Acts 26:22; (15) not, disobedient, heavenly, Acts 26:19.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **AND WHEN IT WAS DETERMINED THAT WE SHOULD SAIL INTO ITALY... ONE ARISTARCHUS, A MACEDONIAN OF THESSALONICA, BEING WITH US** (Acts 27:1, 2). *Luke (WE) and Aristarchus, examples of faithful companions.*
2. **ALL HOPE THAT WE SHOULD BE SAVED WAS THEN TAKEN AWAY** (Acts 27:20). *Sailors recognize that being unable to chart a course (not seeing the stars) is a*

- hopeless situation—Similarly, when Christians neglect the study of the word of God, they are in a hopeless situation* (Acts 27:20; cf., Ps 119:97-105). The only what to chart a course to heaven is to read, study, and apply the Bible to our lives.
3. **...WHOSE I AM, AND WHOM I SERVE** (Acts 27:23). *Being God's and serving God are inseparable conditions.*
4. **WHEREFORE, SIR, BE OF GOOD CHEER: FOR I BELIEVE GOD...** (Acts 27:25). *Trust in God brings CHEER!*
5. **EXCEPT THESE ABIDE IN THE SHIP, YE CANNOT BE SAVED** (Acts 27:31). *Safety only comes in following God's plan!* There are many who seek to devise their own plan for salvation from sin. There is not a single man-made plan that will provide remission for a single sin! In the same way that the men in that ship had to stay put in order to stay safe, men today have to yield their wills to the will of the Lord by obeying the gospel plan of salvation (2 Th 1:7-9). A person **MUST** hear (Rom 10:17); believe (Jn 8:24); repent of past sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31); confess faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God (Mt 10:32-33; Rom 10:10); and be baptized for the remission of their sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).
6. **WHEREFORE I PRAY YOU TO TAKE SOME MEAT: FOR THIS IS FOR YOUR HEALTH...** (Acts 27:34). *Fighting the forces of nature requires PHYSICAL NOURISHMENT; can we not understand that likewise fighting Satan requires spiritual nourishment?*
7. **...THERE SHALL NOT AN HAIR FALL FROM THE HEAD OF ANY OF YOU** *Paul's familiarity with the words of Scripture (OT) is even seen through his non-preaching speech.* Cf., 1 Sam 14:45; 1 Kgs 1:52.
8. **AND WHEN HE HAD THUS SPOKEN, HE TOOK BREAD, AND GAVE THANKS TO GOD IN PRESENCE OF THEM ALL...** (Acts 27:35). *An apostolic example of offering thanksgiving to God for food, in a public situation.*
9. **THEN WERE THEY ALL OF GOOD CHEER...** (Acts 27:36). *Paul exhibits a great characteristic of leadership—inspiring others to be courageous and cheerful in adversity.*
10. **AND THE SOLDIERS' COUNSEL WAS TO KILL THE PRISONERS, LEST ANY OF THEM SHOULD SWIM OUT, AND ESCAPE** (Acts 27:42). *Men can be, and often are, cold and cruel even after experiencing the mercy of God.*
11. **BUT THE CENTURION, WILLING TO SAVE PAUL, KEPT THEM FROM THEIR PURPOSE...** (Acts 27:43). *Tremendous blessings can accrue to friends, associates, and companions of righteous men.*
- 1) Ten righteous men would have saved Sodom (Gen 18:32).
 - 2) Christians are the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Mt 5:13-14).
 - 3) Proverbs 14:34... **Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.**
12. **AND SO IT CAME TO PASS, THAT THEY ESCAPED ALL SAFE TO LAND** (Acts 27:44). *God's promises are ALWAYS fulfilled* (cf., 27:24).

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

P H E N I C E J U L I U S A A W F H R I
 F E J N O W D A N G E R O U S A R Y M L
 A S R E N O S I R P R E H T O C M B V B
 I H C L A U D A X J U I S V S H E I M G
 R E A I R D N A X E L A F O P I H S A V
 H N H M D W H U Z M X V A D D N A P R A
 A O U Q U S O F R P Y Q Z G R H M C I U
 V M M W N O Y R I A S Z U T F D U X S U
 E L P W R H C Q H W E H O Y E E I G T E
 N A O W I L L B E W I T H H U R T E A M
 S S H E P T T C G B B C U U J P T T R L
 T T M I V V D N C B B F R F O G Y E C J
 V S I P I R I R X I M H T T O S M R H K
 S N O P A L W R C M K C B O R C A C U X
 U I V R I U Y H S T M R E F Y J R R S D
 R A Z A H B L C W O S C R A I X D E N I
 P G S Y L A T I O T N I L I A S A D L X
 Y A S L O W L Y M A N Y D A Y S J N J M
 C N O D I S B E U R O C L Y D O N U W T
 E X M D X K F U P C Q Y O I L F E D R L

[The words (or word locaters) listed below are to be found in the text of our lesson. They also are found in the puzzle above. This is just one more way to reinforce what you have studied from the text. Why not read the whole verse where the word is found one more time as you do the puzzle? Thank you for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. Let's desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow (1 Pet 2:2). DRL]

Acts 27

sail into Italy, 1
 Paul, 1
 other prisoners, 1
 Julius, 1
 Adramyttium, 2
 Aristarchus, 2
 Sidon, 3
 Cyprus, 4
 Myra, 5
 ship of Alexandria, 6

slowly many days, 7
 under Crete, 7
 against Salmone, 7
 fair havens, 8
 sailing, 9
 now dangerous, 9
 will be with hurt, 10
 Phenice, 12
 Euroclydon, 14
 Claudia, 16