

## Paul's Voyage to Rome—From Caesarea to Fair Havens (August/September 57)

Acts 27:1–12

### Initial Difficulties

- 1 And when it was decided *that* we would sail away to Italy, they handed over Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion named Julius of the Augustan Cohort.
- 2 And we went aboard a ship from Adramyttium that was about to sail to the places along the *coast* of Asia *and* put out to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was with us.
- 3 And on the next *day*, we put in at Sidon. And Julius, treating Paul kindly, allowed *him* to go to *his* friends to be cared for.
- 4 And from there we put out to sea *and* sailed under the lee of Cyprus, because the winds were against *us*.
- 5 And *after we* had sailed across the open sea along Cilicia and Pamphylia, we put in at Myra in Lycia.
- 6 And there the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy *and* put us on board it.
- 7 And sailing slowly, in many days and with difficulty we came to Cnidus. *Because* the wind did not permit us to go further, we sailed under the lee of Crete off Salmone.
- 8 And sailing along its coast with difficulty, we came to a certain place called Fair Havens, near which was the town of Lasea.

### Paul's Failed Intervention

- 9 And *because* considerable time had passed and the voyage was now dangerous because even the Fast was already over, Paul strongly recommended,
- 10 saying to them, "Men, I perceive that the voyage is going to end with disaster and great loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives!"
- 11 But the centurion was convinced even more by the shipmaster and the shipowner than by what was said by Paul.
- 12 And *because* the harbor was unsuitable for spending the winter in, the majority decided on a plan to put out to sea from there, if somehow they could arrive at Phoenix, a harbor of Crete facing toward the southwest and toward the northwest, to spend the winter *there*.

## Paul's Voyage to Rome—From Fair Havens to Malta (October 57)

Acts 27:13–44

### The Great Storm and the Loss of Hope

- 13 And *when* a southwest wind began to blow gently, *because they* thought *they* could accomplish their purpose, they weighed anchor *and* sailed close along Crete.
- 14 But not long afterward a wind like a hurricane, called the northeaster, rushed down from it.
- 15 And *when* the ship was caught and *was* not able to head into the wind, we gave way *and* were driven *along*.
- 16 And running under the lee of a certain small island called Cauda, we were able with difficulty to get the ship's boat under control.
- 17 *After* hoisting it up, they made use of supports to undergird the ship. And *because they* were afraid lest they run aground on the Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor *and* thus were driven *along*.
- 18 And *because we* were violently battered by the storm, on the next *day* they began jettisoning *the cargo*,
- 19 and on the third *day* they threw overboard the gear of the ship with their own hands.
- 20 But *when* neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and *with* not a little bad weather confronting *us*, finally all hope was abandoned *that* we would be saved.

### Paul's Intervention and Prophecy

- 21 And *because* many were experiencing lack of appetite, at that time Paul stood up in their midst *and* said, "Men, *you* ought to have followed my *advice* not to put out to sea from Crete, and *thus* avoided this damage and loss!
- 22 And now I urge you to cheer up, for there will be no loss of life from among you, but only of the ship.
- 23 For this night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve came to me,
- 24 saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul! It is necessary *for* you to stand before Caesar, and behold, God has graciously granted you all who are sailing with you.'
- 25 Therefore keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will be like this—according to the way it was told to me.
- 26 But it is necessary *that* we run aground on some island."

### The Ship Drifts Toward Malta

- 27 And when the fourteenth night had come, *as* we were being driven in the Adriatic Sea about the middle of the night, the sailors suspected they were approaching some land.
- 28 And taking soundings, they found twenty fathoms. So going on a little *further* and taking soundings again, they found fifteen fathoms.
- 29 And *because they* were afraid lest somewhere we run aground against rough places, they threw down four anchors from the stern *and* prayed for day to come.

30 And *when* the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship and were lowering the ship's boat into the sea, pretending as if they were going to lay out anchors from the bow,

31 Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these *men* remain with the ship, you cannot be saved!"

32 Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship's boat and let it fall away.

#### Paul Urges Them to Eat

33 And until the day was about to come, Paul was urging *them* all to take *some* food, saying, "Today *is the* fourteenth day you have waited *anxiously*, and you have continued without eating, having taken nothing.

34 Therefore I urge you to take *some* food, for this is necessary for your preservation. For not a hair from your head will be lost."

35 And *after he* said these *things* and took bread, he gave thanks to God in front of *them* all, and *after breaking it*, he began to eat.

36 So they all were encouraged and partook of food themselves.

37 (Now we were *in* all two hundred seventy six persons on the ship.)

38 And *when they* had eaten their fill of food, they lightened the ship *by* throwing the wheat into the sea.

#### Shipwreck

39 Now when day came, they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a certain bay having a beach, onto which they decided to run the ship ashore if they could.

40 And slipping the anchors, they left *them* in the sea, at the same time loosening the ropes of the steering oars. And hoisting the foresail to the *wind* that was blowing, they held course for the beach.

41 But falling into a place of crosscurrents, they ran the ship aground. And the bow stuck fast *and* stayed immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the violence.

42 Now the plan of the soldiers was that they would kill the prisoners lest any escape *by* swimming away,

43 but the centurion, *because he* wanted to save Paul, prevented them from doing what they intended, and gave orders *that* those who were able to swim should jump in first to get to the land,

44 and *then* the rest, *some* of whom *floated* on planks and *some* of whom on anything *that was* from the ship. And in this way all were brought safely to the land.

### Paul's Voyage to Rome—Three Months at Malta (November 57 to January 58)

Acts 28:1–10

1 And *after we* were brought safely through, then we found out that the island was called Malta.

2 And the local inhabitants showed extraordinary kindness to us, for they lit a fire *and* welcomed us all, because of the rain that had begun and because of the cold.

3 And *when* Paul had gathered a large number of sticks and was placing *them* on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat *and* fastened itself on his hand.

4 And when the local people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they began saying to one another, "Doubtless this man is a murderer whom, *although he* was rescued from the sea, Justice has not permitted to live!"

5 He, in turn, shook off the creature into the fire *and* suffered no harm.

6 But they were expecting *that* he was going to swell up or suddenly to fall down dead. So *after* they had waited for a long *time* and saw nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds *and* began saying *that* he was a god.

7 Now in the *regions* around that place were fields belonging to the chief official of the island, named Publius, who welcomed us *and* entertained us hospitably *for* three days.

8 And it happened that the father of Publius was lying down, afflicted with fever and dysentery. Paul went to him and *after* praying, he placed *his* hands on him *and* healed him.

9 And *after* this had taken place, the rest of those on the island who had diseases were coming and being healed also.

10 They also honored us with many honors, and *when we* were putting out to sea, they gave us the *things* we needed.

### Paul's Voyage to Rome—From Malta to Rome (February 58)

Acts 28:11–16

11 Now after three months we put out to sea in a ship that had wintered at the island, an Alexandrian *one* with the twin gods Castor and Pollux as its insignia.

12 And putting in at Syracuse, we stayed *there* three days.

13 From there we got underway *and* arrived at Rhegium, and after one day a south wind came up *and* on the second day we came to Puteoli,

14 where we found brothers, *and* were implored to stay with them seven days. And in this way we came to Rome.

15 And from there the brothers, *when they* heard the *news* about us, came to meet us as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns. *When he* saw them, Paul gave thanks to God *and* took courage.

16 And when we entered into Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself with the soldier who was guarding him.

## Paul's Ministry in Rome While Under House Arrest (58–60)

Acts 28:17–31

### Paul Addresses the Jewish Leaders

17 Now it happened that after three days, he called together those who were the most prominent of the Jews. And *when* they had assembled, he said to them, “Men *and* brothers, *although* I had done nothing against *our* people or the customs of our fathers, from Jerusalem I was delivered *as* a prisoner into the hands of the Romans,

18 who, *when they* had examined me, were wanting to release *me*, because there was no basis for an accusation *worthy* of death with me.

19 But *because* the Jews objected, I was forced to appeal to Caesar (not as *if I* had any *charge* to bring against my *own* people).

20 Therefore for this reason I have requested to see you and to speak with *you*, for because of the hope of Israel I am wearing this chain!”

21 And they said to him, “We have received no letters about you from Judea, nor has any of the brothers come *and* reported or spoken anything evil about you.

22 But we would like to hear from you what you think, for concerning this sect it is known to us that it is spoken against everywhere.”

### Paul Presents the Gospel

23 And *when they* had set a day with him, many more came to him at his lodging place, to whom he was explaining from early in the morning until evening, testifying about the kingdom of God and attempting to convince them about Jesus from both the law of Moses and the prophets.

24 And *some* were convinced *by* what was said, but *others* refused to believe.

25 So being in disagreement with one another, they began to leave *after* Paul made one statement: “The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through the prophet Isaiah to your fathers,

26 saying,

‘Go to this people and say,

“You will keep on hearing and will never understand,  
and you will keep on seeing and will never perceive.

27 For the heart of this people has become dull,

and with *their* ears they hear with difficulty,

and they have shut their eyes,

lest they see with *their* eyes,

and hear with *their* ears,

and understand with *their* heart,

and turn, and I would heal them.”’ [Isa 6:9–10]

28 Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles. They also will listen!”

29 [v. 29 is not well attested for the original text of Acts]

### Paul's Ministry While Under House Arrest

30 So he stayed two whole years in his own rented house, and welcomed all who came to him,

31 proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the *things* concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness, without hindrance.

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