

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

Acts 27:1–12

### Initial Difficulties

- 1 When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, they proceeded to deliver Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan cohort named Julius.
- 2 And embarking in an Adramyttian ship, which was about to sail to the regions along the coast of Asia, we put out to sea accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica.
- 3 The next day we put in at Sidon; and Julius treated Paul with consideration and allowed him to go to his friends and receive care.
- 4 From there we put out to sea and sailed under the shelter of Cyprus because the winds were contrary.
- 5 When we had sailed through the sea along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra in Lycia.
- 6 There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy, and he put us aboard it.
- 7 When we had sailed slowly for a good many days, and with difficulty had arrived off Cnidus, since the wind did not permit us *to go* farther, we sailed under the shelter of Crete, off Salmone;
- 8 and with difficulty sailing past it we came to a place called Fair Havens, near which was the city of Lasea.

### Paul's Failed Intervention

- 9 When considerable time had passed and the voyage was now dangerous, since even the fast was already over, Paul *began* to admonish them,
- 10 and said to them, "Men, I perceive that the voyage will certainly be with damage and great loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives."
- 11 But the centurion was more persuaded by the pilot and the captain of the ship than by what was being said by Paul.
- 12 Because the harbor was not suitable for wintering, the majority reached a decision to put out to sea from there, if somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, facing southwest and northwest, and 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 When a moderate south wind came up, supposing that they had attained their purpose, they weighed anchor and *began* sailing along Crete, close *inshore*.
- 14 But before very long there rushed down from the land a violent wind, called Euraquilo;
- 15 and when the ship was caught *in it* and could not face the wind, we gave way *to it* and let ourselves be driven along.
- 16 Running under the shelter of a small island called Clauda, we were scarcely able to get the *ship's* boat under control.
- 17 After they had hoisted it up, they used supporting cables in undergirding the ship; and fearing that they might run aground on *the shallows* of Syrtis, they let down the sea anchor and in this way let themselves be driven along.
- 18 The next day as we were being violently storm-tossed, they began to jettison the cargo;
- 19 and on the third day they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.
- 20 Since neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small storm was assailing *us*, from then on all hope of our being saved was gradually abandoned.

### Paul's Intervention and Prophecy

- 21 When they had gone a long time without food, then Paul stood up in their midst and said, "Men, you ought to have followed my advice and not to have set sail from Crete and incurred this damage and loss.
- 22 *Yet* now I urge you to keep up your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but *only* of the ship.
- 23 For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me,
- 24 saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.'
- 25 Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told.
- 26 But we must run aground on a certain island."

### The Ship Drifts Toward Malta

- 27 But when the fourteenth night came, as we were being driven about in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors *began* to surmise that they were approaching some land.
- 28 They took soundings and found *it to be* twenty fathoms; and a little farther on they took another sounding and found *it to be* fifteen fathoms.
- 29 Fearing that we might run aground somewhere on the rocks, they cast four anchors from the stern and wished for daybreak.
- 30 But as the sailors were trying to escape from the ship and had let down the *ship's* boat into the sea, on the pretense of intending to lay out anchors from the bow,

31 Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, “Unless these men remain in the ship, you yourselves 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 Until the day was about to dawn, Paul was encouraging them all to take some food, saying, “Today is the fourteenth day that you have been constantly watching and going without eating, having taken nothing.  
 34 Therefore I encourage you to take some food, for this is for your preservation, for not a hair from the head of any of you will perish.”  
 35 Having said this, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of all, and he broke it and began to eat.  
 36 All of them were encouraged and they themselves also took food.  
 37 All of us in the ship were two hundred and seventy-six persons.  
 38 When they had eaten enough, they *began* to lighten the ship by throwing out the wheat into the sea.

#### Shipwreck

39 When day came, they could not recognize the land; but they did observe a bay with a beach, and they resolved to drive the ship onto it if they could.  
 40 And casting off the anchors, they left them in the sea while at the same time they were loosening the ropes of the rudders; and hoisting the foresail to the wind, they were heading for the beach.  
 41 But striking a reef where two seas met, they ran the vessel aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern *began* to be broken up by the force *of the waves*.  
 42 The soldiers’ plan was to kill the prisoners, so that none *of them* would swim away and escape;  
 43 but the centurion, wanting to bring Paul safely through, kept them from their intention, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land,  
 44 and the rest *should follow*, some on planks, and others on various things from the ship. And so it happened that they all were brought safely to land.

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

Acts 28:1–10

1 When they had been brought safely through, then we found out that the island was called Malta.  
 2 The natives showed us extraordinary kindness; for because of the rain that had set in and because of the cold, they kindled a fire and received us all.  
 3 But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand.  
 4 When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they *began* saying to one another, “Undoubtedly this man is a murderer, and though he has been saved from the sea, justice has not allowed him to live.”  
 5 However he shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm.  
 6 But they were expecting that he was about to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had waited a long time and had seen nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and *began* to say that he was a god.  
 7 Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the leading man of the island, named Publius, who welcomed us and entertained us courteously three days.  
 8 And it happened that the father of Publius was lying *in bed* afflicted with *recurrent* fever and dysentery; and Paul went in *to see* him and after he had prayed, he laid his hands on him and healed him.  
 9 After this had happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases were coming to him and getting cured.  
 10 They also honored us with many marks of respect; and when we were setting sail, they supplied *us* with all we needed.

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

Acts 28:11–16

11 At the end of three months we set sail on an Alexandrian ship which had wintered at the island, and which had the Twin Brothers for its figurehead.  
 12 After we put in at Syracuse, we stayed there for three days.  
 13 From there we sailed around and arrived at Rhegium, and a day later a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli.  
 14 There we found *some* brethren, and were invited to stay with them for seven days; and thus we came to Rome.  
 15 And the brethren, when they heard about us, came from there as far as the Market of Appius and Three Inns to meet us; and when Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.  
 16 When we entered 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 After three days Paul called together those who were the leading men of the Jews, and when they came together, he *began* saying to them, “Brethren, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.

18 And when they had examined me, they were willing to release me because there was no ground for putting me to death.

19 But when the Jews objected, I was forced to appeal to Caesar, not that I had any accusation against my nation.

20 For this reason, therefore, I requested to see you and to speak with you, for I am wearing this chain for the sake of the hope of Israel.”

21 They said to him, “We have neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor have any of the brethren come here and reported or spoken anything bad about you.

22 But we desire to hear from you what your views are; for concerning this sect, it is known to us that it is spoken against everywhere.”

### Paul Presents the Gospel

23 When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening.

24 Some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others would not believe.

25 And when they did not agree with one another, they *began* leaving after Paul had spoken one *parting* word, “The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers,

26 saying,

‘GO TO THIS PEOPLE AND SAY,

“YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND;

AND YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE;

27 FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL,

AND WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR,

AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES;

OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT SEE WITH THEIR EYES,

AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS,

AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN,

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 will also listen.”

29 [When he had spoken these words, the Jews departed, having a great dispute among themselves.]

### Paul's Ministry While Under House Arrest

30 And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him,

31 preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

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