

2/3/08

Acts 27

Paul the apostle had appealed to Caesar, after two years of being a political ploy of Felix and Festus, so Paul was going to be sent to Rome to stand before Caesar Nero.

God had told Paul that he was going to go to Rome and bear witness of Him but the timing and the way he was going to get there, was without doubt not the way he had thought it would take place.

If we are committed to study the works of God, then the ways of God will never offend us, because we know that He is just and righteous, therefore I can not judge the ways of God by my circumstances or emotions, only by His word!

Chapter 27-28:16 records for us the voyage to Rome and the various details and could be compared to God's promises to us, of one day glorifying us, yet there may be times of difficulties and dangers that could cause us to start doubting, yet as we abide in Christ and trust Him, He will be faithful.

There have been two men who have done a tremendous work on behalf of the voyages of Paul to verify the terms, distances and the accuracy of

the record we have, they are J. Smith, The Voyage and Shipwreck of St. Paul and Sir William Ramsey, St. Paul, The Traveler and Roman citizen.

27:1-8 **The departure of Paul to Rome.**

- 27:1** The boarding of the ship to Rome.
- 1) The plural "we" last appeared six chapters before. vs. 1a
* Acts 21:18
 - 2) Their port of arrival was to be Italy and the word sail "apopleo" is a nautical term, which appears six times in the remainder of the Acts. vs. 1a
* Acts 27:4, 12, 21; 28:10-11
 - 2) The apostle Paul was entrusted to a centurion name Julius, along with other prisoner. vs. 1b
 - a) The Centurion Julius was in charge of 100 men
 - b) Those prisoners could of been for the gladiator shows or other cases to be presented before Caesar.
 - 3) The Augustan Regiment has different opinions but probably were a special Cohort Augusta, a regiment of auxiliaries. vs. 1c

27:2 The departure and friends of Paul.

- 1) The ship departed from Adramyttium a port in Mysia, at the west coast of Asia. vs. 2a
- 2) Aristarchus from Meceonia was with Paul and Luke. vs. 2b-c
 - a) Aristarchus had been one of the men to accompany Paul to Jerusalem. Acts 19:29, 20:4
 - b) Ramsay believed he was either going back to Thessalonica or assigned as Paul's slave, in order to go with him to Rome and Luke as his physician. Acts 20:4, Col. 4:10, Philem. 24, 2Tim. 4:11

27:3 The stop at Sidon.

- 1) The distance from Caesarea to Sidon was about 70 miles. vs. 3a
- 2) Julius kindly allowed Paul to liberty to disembark and be with some Christian friends, that they might care for him. vs. 3b
 - a) The gospel had established some believers.
 - b) Julius is portrayed in a good light, as all the Centurions are in the scriptures, such as the Centurion that came to Jesus asking for his servant and the one at the cross.

27:4-5 The departure from Sidon.

- 1) The ship sailed in a zig-zag pattern called tacking because the winds were contrary, using the Island of Cyprus as a shield. vs. 4
- 2) Myra was about two miles from the sea. vs. 5

27:6-8 The change of ships.

- 1) The Alexandrian ship was most likely a corn or wheat ship, as verse 38 indicates, and of much larger size than the previous one, sailing between Egypt and Italy. vs. 6
- 2) The ship sailed slowly many days due to the winds. vs. 7a
- 3) The distance between Myra and Cnidus was about 30 miles. vs. 7b
- 4) The wind was contrary to them again, so the Island of Salmone was used for protection from the wind, as Crete. vs. 7c
- 5) The journey was a difficult one, due to the constant wind, as they traveled. vs. 8
 - a) The word passing is a nautical term meaning coasting along or sail.
 - b) This would be the last point they would have any more protection of the land or currents

27:9-12 **The warning of Paul against continuing the voyage.**

27:9-10 The delay at Fair Havens.

- 1) They delayed hoping the weather would improve. vs. 9a
- 2) The feast refers to the Day of Atonement in Sept. or Oct., on the 10th of the seventh month. vs. 9b
- 3) The dangerous season for sailing was between Sept. 14 through Nov. 11. vs. 9b
* For that reason all navigation ceased from Nov. 11 to March 10! Lenski
- 4) Paul at this point warned of the real potential danger to the ship and their lives. vs. 10
* This was by observation only not prophecy.

27:11-12 The decision to continue in the voyage.

- 1) The centurion took the ship owners advice to sail rather than Paul's. vs. 11
- 2) The other reason was the port was not suited for winter having no protection against the sea. vs. 12a
- 3) The majority voted to sail, with plans of reaching Phoenix, a harbor in Crete about 40 miles west, the peninsula gave full protection to a harbor southwest and northwest. vs. 12b-d

27:13-26 **The storm placed Paul in command.****27:13** The journey ensued.

- 1) The weather seemed to be favorable. vs. 13a-c
- 2) They continued to sail close to Crete. vs. 13d

27:14 The expectation was short-lived.

- 1) Then a tempestuous wind arose. vs. 14a-b
- 2) The wind was called Euroclydon meaning North-eastern wind, a combination of a Greek and Latin word. vs. 14c

27:15-16 The wind withstood the ship.

- 1) The ship was caught in a typhoon of the hurricane and could not drive forward. vs. 15a
- 2) They allowed the ship to simply be driven southward, towards the Island Clauda. vs. 15b
- 3) They were able to secure some protection once again from an Island called Clauda, about 25 miles from Fair Haven. vs. 16a
- 4) They also managed to secure the skiff. vs. 16b
* The word "we" indicates Luke was equally involved in securing the safety of the ship.

27:17-19 The severity of the crisis.

- 1) They undergirded the ship with cables so it would not break apart, this is know as “frapping”. vs. 17a
- 2) They feared drift towards the Syrtis Sands, the shallow waters with treacherous rocks and sandbanks, off North Africa, which was the graveyard of many ships. vs. 17c
* There was a minor one also, farther east also.
- 3) They let the wind fill the sail and be driven. vs. 17d
- 4) They began to jettison the cargo, to lighten the ship. vs. 18
- 5) The third day they threw over the furniture, equipment and tackling of the ship. vs. 19

27:20-26 The hope in the midst of a hopeless situation.

- 1) They gave up all hope when the navigation became impossible without the sun or stars, being depressed and despondent, they had given up. vs. 20
- 2) The apostle Paul addressed the men on the ship. vs. 21
 - a) He stood to his feet, after a long period of being without food and told them they should of listened to him about not sailing from Crete, then

they would not of suffered all these things.

- b) Paul says this not to rub it in their faces but in preparation of what he was about to say to them.
- 3) Paul encourages the men by assuring them there would be no loss of any of their lives, only the ship. vs. 22
- 4) Paul then proceeded to tell them of an angelic visit in the night. vs. 23-24
 - a) An angel that belonged to the God Paul served, had stood besides Paul in the night. vs. 23
 - b) he an angel had revealed this to him.
 - c) The angel told him to not be afraid, and then declared he would be brought before Caesar. vs. 24a-c
 - d) The angel declared also that God had granted all on board who sailed with Paul. vs. 24d
- 5) Paul exhorted them to take heart or courage and confessed his belief in what God had promised. vs. 25
- 6) Paul added a P.S., a minor detail, Paul declared they would run aground on some Island. vs. 26
* This was a good thing, to prepare themselves for what was coming.

27:27-44 **The preparations for beaching the ship.**

27:27-28 The sound of land prompted their preparations.

- 1) The time is long, 14 days at sea in a storm is frightful. vs. 27a
- 2) The Adriatic Sea was the Mediterranean Sea between Italy and Greece and at midnight. vs. 27b
- 3) The sailor at midnight heard the braking of waves, indicating the shoreline was near. vs. 27c
- 4) A fathom is six feet, so it was 120 feet deep at this point. vs. 28a
- 5) Then 15 fathoms, 90 feet. vs. 28b

27:29 The precautions to secure the ship from rocks.

- 1) They were very afraid of the ship being sunk by the rocks. vs. 29a-b
- 2) They dropped anchors off the stern to try and slow the ship down. vs. 29c
- 3) They prayed daybreak. vs. 29d

27:30-32 The attempt by some to abandon ship.

- 1) The sailors saw an opportunity to escape in the skiff. vs. 30a-b
- 2) They pretended to be assisting in lowering anchors. vs. 30c
- 3) Paul taking note, told the centurion and soldiers, that unless they stayed in the boat, they could be saved. vs. 31

- 4) The soldiers to prevent them from escaping, cut the ropes and the skiff fell into the sea. vs. 32

27:33 The encouragement of Paul to the men to eat some food.

- 1) The apostle Paul exhorted the men as it was about to dawn. vs. 33a
- 2) Paul pointed out it had been fourteen days since they ate anything. vs. 33b-d
- 3) Paul urged them nourish their body for their survival. vs. 34a-b
 - * They did not have the strength they would need to bring the boat into the beach.
- 4) Paul assured them that not one of them would lose a hair from their head. vs. 34c
 - * This was based on the promise of the angel that appeared to Paul. vs. 22-25
- 5) Paul gave thanks to God for the bread in their presence. vs. 35a-b
- 6) Paul dispersed the bread and they ate. vs. 35c
- 7) The men were all encouraged, taking food for themselves. vs. 36
- 8) The number of men were 276. vs. 37

27:38-41 The final details to head for land.

- 1) Having eaten, they threw over the wheat into the sea to lighten the ship. vs. 38

- a) This would enable them to get the ship closer to the shore.
- b) The word lighten “kouphizo” is another nautical term.
- 2) At day, they failed to recognize their location, what land it was they were coming on. vs. 39a-b
- 3) They spotted a bay with an area of beach to run the ship aground. vs. 39c-d
- 4) They freed the ship from all drag by releasing the anchors, loosening the rudder ropes. vs. 40a-b
- 5) They then hoisted the sail and headed straight to shore. vs. 40c-d
- 6) They struck aground between the meeting of the two currents by an isthmus between the island and the mainland, so the stern was being broken up by the waves. vs. 41
* Also known as St. Paul’s Bay.

27:42-44 The survival of all the men.

- 1) The soldiers were ready to kill the prisoners lest they escaped. vs. 42
* They would pay with their own lives, if the prisoner count was not accurate at their arrival at Rome.
- 2) But the centurion focusing on Paul’s safety stopped the soldiers from their purpose. vs. 43a-c

- 3) He commanded those able to jump in and swim to shore. vs. 43d
- 4) The rest floated to shore on boards or parts of the ship. vs. 44a
- 5) All made it safely to shore. vs. 44b
* It is believed this was about the middle of November.