

Acts 27 Paul Is Sent to Rome

Now when it was decided that we would sail for Italy, they proceeded to turn Paul and some other prisoners over to a centurion of the Augustan cohort, named Julius. 2 And we boarded an Adramyttian ship that was about to sail to the regions along the coast of Asia, and 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.

9 When considerable time had passed and the voyage was now dangerous, since even the fast was already over, Paul started admonishing them, 10 saying 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 The harbor was not suitable for wintering, so 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. 13 When a moderate south wind came up, thinking that they had attained their purpose, they weighed anchor and began sailing along Crete, closer to shore.

14 But before very long a violent wind, called Euraquilo, rushed down from the land; 15 and when the ship was caught in it and could not head up into the wind, we gave up and let ourselves be driven by the wind. 16 Running under the shelter of a small island called Cauda, we were able to get the ship's boat under control only with difficulty. 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 let themselves be driven along in this way.

18 The next day as we were being violently tossed by the storm, 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 slowly abandoned.

21 When many had lost their appetites, Paul then stood among them and said, "Men, you should have followed my advice and not have set sail from Crete, and thereby spared yourselves this damage and loss. 22 And 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, whom I also serve, came to me, 24 saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has graciously 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."

27 But when the fourteenth night came, as we were being driven about in the Adriatic Sea,

about midnight the sailors began to suspect that they were approaching some land. 28 And 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 prayed 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 that they were going to lay out anchors from the bow, 31 Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men remain on 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.

33 Until the day was about to dawn, Paul kept 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 in nothing. 34 Therefore, I encourage you to take some food, for this is for your survival, 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 them all, and he broke it and began to eat. 36 All of them were encouraged and they themselves also took food. 37 We were 276 people on the ship in all. 38 When they had eaten enough, they began lightening the ship by throwing the wheat out into the sea.

39 Now when day came, they could not recognize the land; but they did notice a bay with a beach, and they resolved to run 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 they hoisted the foresail to the wind and were heading for the beach. 41 But they struck a reef where two seas met and ran the ship aground; and the prow stuck firmly and remained immovable, while the stern started to break up due to 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 accomplishing their intention, and commanded that those who could swim were to jump overboard first and get to land, 44 and the rest were to follow, some on planks, and others on various things from the ship. And so it happened that they all were brought safely to land.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul's Observations and insights

1. We get a chronological insight into Paul's journey to Rome.
2. What is it to be shown consideration?
3. Despite the sailors caution, the trip to Rome proved to be a hazardous journey for the crew!
4. The problems they were facing were due to the wind.
5. Having arrived at Fairhaven Paul spoke up, but the Centurion, Julius, was only interested in what the captain of the ship had to say.
6. What is it to admonish someone?
7. Paul tries to help Julius see what lay ahead of them on the journey if they kept going.
8. The harbour at Fairhaven seemed to be an inappropriate place to stay for the winter –

why was that?

9. Despite Paul's best advice they set sail, but this violent wind came at them. Why did they name the wind Euraquilo?
10. Without the sun and stars the captain was blind, not knowing how to pilot the ship as to where it was going.
11. How would you feel regarding the realisation, you were going to be lost at sea?
12. The crew were hungry and exhausted, Paul seeks to encourage them but they are not interested.
13. Having come to terms with the fact things are not going so well, Paul says 'I told you so!'
14. No-one likes 'I told you so!'
15. Why was Paul so convinced only the ship would be lost, with no loss of life?
16. An angel of the Lord had appeared to Paul and strengthened and encouraged him.
17. Fear would attempt to demoralise them all.
18. Paul states 'I believe God says that we should run aground'.
19. Disaster to this ship was about to come to the people.
20. Why did some of the sailors attempt to get away on small boats?
21. Paul states the promise of protection only applies if they stay on board the ship.
22. Julius's soldiers let the boats go by cutting them free into the sea.
23. Paul is still trying to get the crew to eat, but fear was making them not hungry.
24. He reveals how the salvation would come.
25. The sailors begin to eat, why do we break bread?
26. The strategy for the sailors was to drive the ship onto the beach, but the wind began to break up the boat.
27. To stop the prisoners from escaping, the suggestion of killing the prisoners was put forward. Why would they do this?
28. The announcement came 'abandon ship and get to the beach however you could'.
29. Paul's word came true, there was no loss of life, everyone made it ashore.
30. Why does fear debilitate? Have you ever been really afraid?