

Acts 27

King James Version (KJV)

27 And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto one named Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band.

²And entering into a ship of Adramyttium, we launched, meaning to sail by the coasts of Asia; one Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, being with us.

³And the next day we touched at Sidon. And Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself. (Julius trusts Paul enough to give him liberty as they travel)

(Sidon was a support city to Tyrus – the Kenite center of commerce)

⁴And when we had launched from thence, we sailed under Cyprus, because the winds were contrary. (It was getting close to winter time. There are severe storms on the Mediterranean Sea in winter)

⁵And when we had sailed over the sea of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, a city of Lycia.

⁶And there the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing into Italy; and he put us therein. (It was probably a large cargo ship taking grain from Alexandria to Italy)

⁷And when we had sailed slowly many days, and scarce were come over against Cnidus, the wind not suffering us, we sailed under Crete, over against Salmone; (The wind was against them)

⁸And, hardly passing it, came unto a place which is called The fair havens; nigh whereunto was the city of Lasea.

⁹Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now already past, Paul admonished them, (Winter is a dangerous time to sail on the Med. Paul was warning them that it was going to be rough seas trying to cross the Med at this time of year)

¹⁰And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our

lives. (Paul recommended that they should winter in Crete. God was warning Paul)

¹¹ Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul. (The ship's master decided to keep going, against Paul's recommendation)

¹² And because the haven was not commodious to winter in, the more part advised to depart thence also, if by any means they might attain to Phenice, and there to winter; which is an haven of Crete, and lieth toward the south west and north west. (They wanted to winter in a better port than Fair Havens)

(They were going to try to make it to Phenice. There was a lot more to do there. Unfortunately, this decision will cost the captain his ship)

¹³ And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, loosing thence, they sailed close by Crete. (The wind calmed down so they decided to try)

¹⁴ But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon. (It was a Hurricane out of the North East)

¹⁵ And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive. (They put up a small storm sail and went with the wind, because it is too powerful)

¹⁶ And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the boat: (This is a small boat that trails the ship, used to go ashore. The seas were so rough that they had to lift the boat out of the water and stow it on the ship)

¹⁷ Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven. (The sandy shores of North Africa are quicksand) (Had they continued to sail down wind, they would have mired on that coast. So they lashed the ship's hull with cables, to keep it together, and tried sailing into the wind in order to escape the storm)

¹⁸ And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship; (They threw any extra objects out to lighten the ship against the rough seas, so that it wouldn't sink)

¹⁹ And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship.

²⁰ And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away. (They can't navigate without the sun or the stars. They were losing all hope of surviving)

²¹ But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. (Paul is saying - I told you to stay put, but you wouldn't listen to me)

²² And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. (God spoke to Paul. They will lose the ship but they will survive. God had already told Paul that he is going to Rome)

²³ For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, (The Angel of God – this is God in angelic form. God has many offices – the Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Melchizedek, the Angel of God, etc)

²⁴ Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. (God was sending Paul to Rome to witness before Caesar. HE gave Paul these souls to save from the storm. But now they need to listen to Paul if they want to survive)

²⁵ Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. (God is in control. Believe Him)

²⁶ Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island.

²⁷ But when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country; (They could hear the waves breaking against the shore in the darkness)

²⁸ And sounded, and found it twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little further, they sounded again, and found it fifteen fathoms. (They are coming up fast on land)

²⁹ Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day. (They were trying to keep the ship off of the rocks until daylight comes)

³⁰ And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship, (under colour = covertly. They are trying to desert, unnoticed)

³¹ Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.

³² Then the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off. (The soldiers believed Paul. They cut the small boat loose from the ship)

³³ And while the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing. (They were seasick from the rough seas. They'll need their strength in order to make it to shore)

³⁴ Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you. (God told Paul that they would make it safely to shore)

³⁵ And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat. (Paul never forgot to thank God for His mercy and blessings. He set a good example for the rest of them)

³⁶ Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat. (They were going to need their strength to make it to shore safely)

³⁷ And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls. (276 – Soldiers, sailors, passengers)

³⁸ And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, and cast out the wheat into the sea. (They need to lighten the ship so they can get closer to shore)

³⁹ And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into the which they were minded, if it were possible, to thrust in the ship. (This small bay is still called St. Paul's Bay, On Malta)

⁴⁰ And when they had taken up the anchors, they committed themselves unto the sea, and loosed the rudder bands, and hoisted up the mainsail to the wind, and made toward shore. (They lifted the rudders to make the draft of the ship shallower)

⁴¹ And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast, and remained unmoveable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves.

⁴² And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape. (An escaped prisoner was a death sentence to the soldier that was guarding him)

⁴³ But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land:

⁴⁴ And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land. (Just as God had promised Paul)

NOTE: (God is in control. People need to trust in Him; especially when He directs us to do something)