

The Book of Acts: Lesson #13 – Journey to Rome (Acts 27, 28)

Memory Verse

Acts 27:24 (NKJV) ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.’”

Sailing to Rome

276 prisoners and soldiers on board.

Caligula's "Giant Ship" Recovered in 1929, was a very large barge whose ruins were found near the Airport in Fiumicino, Italy. This was previously an ancient Roman port near the mouth of the Tiber River. This Roman barge had a length of about 341ft, and a beam of about 66 ft. It was 6 decks high, displaced a 7,400 tons, and carried a crew of 700-800.

You Need Friends

You're going to need something deeper than Facebook. **He had Luke.**

Acts 27:3 And the next day **we** landed at Sidon. And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him liberty to go to his friends and receive care.

Slow Progress

Acts 27:7, 8 When we had sailed slowly many days, and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, the wind not permitting us to proceed, we sailed under the shelter of Crete off Salmone. Passing it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near the city of Lasea.

Prediction of Disaster

Acts 27:9, 10 Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, saying, “Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives.”

***2 Corinthians 11:25 (NKJV)** Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

They did not listen **Acts 27:11–12**

The Storm

Acts 27:14 But not long after, a tempestuous head wind arose, called Euroclydon. They were seasick but the alternative was worse.

In The Perfect Storm, author Sebastian Junger describes the sound of the wind: “A scream means the wind is around Force 9 on the Beaufort Scale, 40 or 50 knots. Force 10 is a shriek. Force 11 is a moan. Over Force 11 . . . the wind makes a deep tonal vibration like a church organ. There's no melody, though; [it's like] a church organ played by a child.”

Jonah 1:5 Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them.

Acts 27:20 (NKJV) Now when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest beat on us, all hope that we would be saved was finally given up.

The Shipwreck

Paul the intercessor

Acts 27:23–24 (NKJV) For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve,²⁴ saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.’

Acts 27:25–26 (NKJV) Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. However, we must run aground on a certain island.” **520 miles 37 miles a day =14 days**

Acts 27:29 Then, fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern, and prayed for day to come.

We hold on to the truth but sometimes the truth needs to hold on to us.

***Revelation 7:1** After these things I saw **four angels** standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.

These four Angels are like the four anchors holding the ship through the waves preventing the destruction.

Acts 27:29 Then, fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern, and prayed for day to come.

Paul Goes From Captive to Captain. He is a type of Christ here

Acts 27:31 (NKJV) Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.” **Divisions**

Acts 27:33–36 And as day was about to dawn, Paul implored them all to take food, saying, “Today is the fourteenth day you have waited and continued without food, and eaten nothing. Therefore I urge you to take nourishment, for this is **for your survival**, since not a hair will fall from the head of any of you.” And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken it he began to eat. **Then they were all encouraged**, and also took food themselves.³⁷ And in all we were two hundred and seventy-six persons on the ship.³⁸ So when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship and threw out the wheat into the sea.

We need the bread in us before the storm. **four angels**

- “Throughout this narrative a nice balance is maintained between God’s assurance of their safety and the efforts of the people involved to ensure it.”—David J. Williams, *Acts*

Acts 27:42–44 (NKJV) And the soldiers’ plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim away and escape. But the centurion, wanting to save Paul, kept them from their purpose, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land, and the rest, some on boards and some on parts of the ship. And so it was that they all escaped safely to land.

God often saves through storms Noah, Jonah, the Apostles

Psalm 107:23–31 They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep. For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit’s end. Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven. Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

In Malta

Acts 28:1–6 (NKJV) Now when they had escaped, they then found out that the island was called Malta.² And the natives showed us unusual kindness; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold.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 on his hand.⁴ So when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, “No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow to live.”⁵ But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm.⁶ However, they were expecting that he would swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had looked for a long time and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

The Gentiles first thought Jesus was cursed but then saw he was God’s son. Serpent looked like it won but ended up in the fire.

Mark 16:18 “they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them;

Miracles in Malta Paul now goes from prisoner to physician

Acts 28:7–10 (NKJV) In that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days. And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him. So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed. They also honored us in many ways; and when we departed, they provided such things as were necessary.

Acts 4:29–30 (NKJV) Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”

***Acts 14:3 (NKJV)** Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

At the beginning of the story Paul is a prisoner, by the end he is commanding everyone.

Paul in Rome, Finally

After three months in Malta, Paul and his companions were finally able to continue their journey (Acts 28:11). They arrived in Puteoli (Acts 28:13)—modern Pozzuoli, in the Bay of Naples—from where they would travel to Rome by road (see Acts 28:11–16).

Acts 28:13–15 (NKJV) From there we circled round and reached Rhegium. And after one day the south wind blew; and the next day we came to Puteoli, where we found brethren, and were invited to stay with them seven days. And so we went toward Rome. And from there, when the brethren heard about us, they came to meet us as far as Appii Forum and Three Inns. When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.

The Victory of the Gospel

Romans 1:16 (NKJV) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Acts 28:23–24 (NKJV) So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.²⁴ And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved.