



## MIDWEEK FILLUP | THE STUDY OF ACTS

### ACTS 27

#### OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

1. To observe how Paul's trip to Rome began
2. To notice how Paul warned of a disaster and was ignored
3. To examine how the tempestuous sea became disastrous for the ship
4. To contemplate how all were saved in the shipwreck at Malta

#### SUMMARY

When it was decided that the prisoners should sail to Italy, Julius, a centurion of the Augustan Regiment, took custody. They boarded a ship of Adramyttium to sail along the Asian coast. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, accompanied Paul. When the ship arrived at Sidon, Julius treated Paul kindly. He was allowed to go to his friends and receive care. They then sailed near Cyprus, Cilicia, Pamphylia, and arrived at Myra. There, the centurion found an Alexandrian ship headed to Italy. They boarded this ship and departed. They sailed slowly for many days, as the wind made it difficult to sail. They continued to sail with difficulty near Cnidus and Crete off Salmone. Next, they arrived at Fair Havens, near the city of Lasea. (1-8)

A great amount of time had passed, and sailing became dangerous. Paul advised, "I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss..." The centurion ignored Paul, and rather listened to the helmsman and ship-owner, who considered the harbor "not suitable to winter in." The majority wanted to sail on to Phoenix, a harbor of Crete. (9-12)

The south wind began to blow softly. Supposing this favorable, they put out to sea. They sailed close to Crete. Shortly after sailing, a "tempestuous head wind arose, called Euroclydon." The ship was driven south of an island called Clauda. The sailors secured the ship with cables/ropes by passing them underneath the hull. The following day, they lightened the ship. The third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard. After several days in the storm, all hope was given up. They had not eaten for many days. Paul reminded them that he had recommended to not sail from Crete. Paul then assured them there would be no loss of life; only the ship would be lost. This message came from an angel of God. Paul affirmed his faith/trust in God that this surely would come to pass. Paul further revealed that the ship would run aground. After fourteen nights, the sailors sensed they were near land. They took soundings and determined they were nearing land. It was dark. They dropped four anchors to avoid running aground and prayed for daylight. The sailors lowered the skiff to appear that they were putting out more anchors; however, they intended to leave the ship. Paul told the centurion and soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." The soldiers cut the ropes to the skiff and let it fall away. As the day dawned, Paul

encouraged them to eat. It had been fourteen days since they had eaten. Paul indicated they needed food for nourishment and survival. He reminded them they all would be safe. Paul then took bread, gave thanks to God, and began to eat before them. They were all encouraged by Paul and ate as well. After they had eaten enough, they threw the wheat into the sea to lighten the ship. There were two hundred seventy-six people aboard the ship. (13-38)

At daylight, they saw a bay with a beach, though they did not recognize the land. They desired to drive the ship onto the beach. They let the anchors go into the sea, hoisted the main sail, and headed for the beach. The ship ran aground "where two seas met" and the "prow stuck fast" - the ship was immovable. The waves violently began to break up the ship. The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to keep any from escaping. The centurion stopped the soldiers' plan. He wanted to save Paul. The centurion commanded all who could swim to jump overboard and swim for shore. The rest floated on boards or parts of the ship. They all escaped safely to the island. (39-44)

## **OUTLINE**

### **1. TRIP TO ROME BEGAN (1-8)**

#### **a. SAILED A SHIP OF ADRAMYTTIUM (1-5)**

- i. It was decided that the prisoners should sail to Italy
- ii. Julius, a centurion of the Augustan Regiment, took custody
- iii. They boarded a ship of Adramyttium to sail along the Asian coast
- iv. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, accompanied Paul
- v. At Sidon, Julius treated Paul kindly
  1. Paul was allowed to go to his friends and receive care
- vi. They sailed near Cyprus, Cilicia, Pamphylia, and arrived at Myra

#### **b. SAILED A SHIP OF ALEXANDRIA (6-8)**

- i. At Myra, the centurion found an Alexandrian ship headed to Italy
- ii. They boarded this ship and departed
  1. They sailed slowly for many days
  2. The wind made it difficult to sail
- iii. They continued to sail with difficulty near Cnidus, Crete off Salmone
- iv. They arrived at Fair Havens, near the city of Lasea

### **2. PAUL WARNED OF DISASTER (9-12)**

#### **a. SAILING BECAME DANGEROUS; PAUL WARNED OF DISASTER (9-10)**

- i. Much time had passed, and sailing became dangerous
- ii. Paul advised, "I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss..."

**b. THE CENTURION IGNORED PAUL'S WARNING (11-12)**

- i. The centurion listened to the helmsman and ship-owner rather than Paul
- ii. They considered the harbor "not suitable to winter in"
- iii. The majority wanted to sail on to Phoenix, a harbor of Crete

**3. THE TEMPESTUOUS SEA (13-38)**

**a. A FAVORABLE WIND BLEW (13)**

- i. The south wind blew softly
- ii. Supposing this favorable, they put out to sea
- iii. They sailed close to Crete

**b. THE TEMPEST BEGAN (14-20)**

- i. Shortly after sailing, a "tempestuous head wind arose, called Euroclydon"
- ii. The ship was driven south of an island called Claudia
- iii. The sailors secured the ship with cables/ropes, passing them underneath
- iv. The following day, they lightened the ship
- v. The third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard
- vi. After several days in the storm, all hope was given up

**c. PAUL ASSURED THE MEN OF SURVIVAL (21-26)**

- i. They had not eaten for many days
- ii. Paul reminded them: he had recommended to not sail from Crete
- iii. Paul then assured them there would be no loss of life; only the ship would be lost - the message came from an angel of God
- iv. Paul affirmed his trust in God to the men by saying, "for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me"
- v. Paul further revealed that the ship would run aground

**d. THE CREW ATTEMPTED TO ABANDON THE SHIP (27-32)**

- i. After fourteen nights, the sailors sensed they were near land
- ii. They took soundings and determined they were nearing land
- iii. It was dark; they dropped four anchors to avoid running aground and prayed for daylight
- iv. The sailors lowered the skiff to appear they were putting out more anchors; but they intended to leave the ship
- v. Paul told the centurion and soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved."
- vi. The soldiers cut the ropes to the skiff and let it fall away

**e. THE TEMPEST BEGAN (33-38)**

- i. As the day dawned, Paul encouraged them to eat; it had been fourteen days since they had eaten

- ii. Paul indicated they needed food for nourishment and survival
- iii. He reminded them they all would be safe
- iv. Paul took bread, gave thanks to God, and began to eat before them
- v. They were all encouraged by Paul and ate as well
- vi. After they had eaten enough, they threw out the wheat to lighten the ship
- vii. There were two hundred seventy-six people aboard the ship

#### **4. SHIPWRECKED AT MALTA (39-44)**

##### **a. ATTEMPTED TO DRIVE THE SHIP ONTO THE BEACH (39-41)**

- i. At daylight, they saw a bay with a beach
- ii. They desired to drive the ship onto the beach
- iii. They let the anchors go into the sea, hoisted the main sail and headed for the beach
- iv. The ship ran aground "where two seas met" and the "prow stuck fast" - the ship was immovable
- v. The waves violently began to break up the ship

##### **b. THEY SWAM AND/OR FLOATED TO SHORE; ALL WERE SAVED (42-44)**

- i. The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to keep any from escaping
- ii. The centurion stopped the soldiers' plan
  - 1. He wanted to save Paul
- iii. The centurion commanded all who could swim to jump overboard and swim for shore
  - 1. The rest floated on boards or parts of the ship
- iv. They all escaped safely to the island