

Comments About Acts 27

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By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Acts. This week, we will talk about chapter 27.

May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Acts.

Overview of Paul's travels

As we entered into Acts 13, we began reading about Paul's missionary journeys. According to some Bible commentaries, the trips can be categorized in the following manner.

- First missionary journey—Acts 13:1 until Acts 14:28
- Second missionary journey—Acts 15:36 until Acts 18:22
- Third missionary journey—Acts 18:23 until Acts 21:16
- Trip to Rome—Acts 21:17 until Acts 28:31

Voyage to Rome began

Last week in Acts 26, we mentioned how the apostle Paul gave a defense before King Agrippa (Acts 26:1-23) and how the king sized up the situation (verse 32).

Acts 26:32—"Then Agrippa said to Festus, 'This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.' "

So Paul began his voyage to Rome.

- For the trip, Paul and other prisoners were placed under the jurisdiction of Julius, a centurion of the Augustan Regiment (verse 1).
- They boarded a ship to sail along the coasts of Asia (verse 2).
- Julius treated Paul kindly (verse 3).
- The ship sailed close to the island of Cyprus to find protection from the strong winds (verse 4).
- At the city of Myra, the centurion placed the passengers on a ship sailing to Italy (verses 5-6).

- Because of the strong winds, the ship sailed under the shelter of Crete (verses 7-8).
- Since the trip was after the Fast (verse 9), Paul warned against sailing at this time (verse 10).
- Because that harbor was not a suitable place to stay for the winter, they headed for another harbor of Crete (verses 12-13).

A strong storm

- The ship encountered a strong storm (verses 14-17), they threw cargo and gear overboard (verses 18-19), and many had finally given up (verse 20).
- Paul gave words in an effort to encourage the people on board (verses 21-26).

Notice a portion.

Acts 27:22-23—"And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve."

Acts 27:24—"Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you. Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me."

- Luke (the author of Acts) described events on the 14th day (verses 27-38).
- There were 276 people on board (verse 37).
- After they had eaten enough, they threw the wheat into the sea (verse 38).
- The ship became shipwrecked (verses 39-41).
- The soldiers wanted to kill the prisoners, but the centurion wanted to save Paul (verses 42-44).

Acts 27:42—"And the soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim away and escape."

Acts 27:43-44—"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."