

The Acts of the Apostles II
The Shipwreck on the Way to Rome
Acts 27:1-44

I. THE VOYAGE FROM CAESAREA (Acts 27:1-13)

A. The Trip to Sidon (Acts 27:1-3)

- i. Under the centurion Julius (Acts 27:1) – a band is a division in the Roman Army consisting of 400 to 600 men.
- ii. With Luke (Acts 27:2; Acts 16:6, 7, 10; Acts 21: 12-14; Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24)
- iii. With Aristarchus (Acts 27:2; Acts 19:29; Acts 20:4; Colossians 4:10; Philemon 24)
- iv. Entering a ship from Adramyttium a port city on the northern coast of Asia Minor (Modern day Turkey) (Acts 27:2)
- v. With liberty (Acts 27:3; Acts 24:23)
 1. In Sidon
 2. To go unto his friends

B. The Trip to Fair Havens (Acts 27:4-8)

- i. Landing at Myra (Acts 27:4-5)
- ii. Finding a ship (Acts 27:6)
 1. A ship of Alexandria
 - a) A grain ship (Acts 27:38)
 - b) During this period of history, Egypt was a source of much of the wheat that kept the people of Rome fed.
 - c) The City of Alexandria
 - i. Located on the Mediterranean Sea in the country of Egypt on the continent of Africa, Alexandria is still an active city today. This great seaport is in the area known scripturally as the “land of Ham”

(Psalm 105:23). Alexander the Great founded the city in 332 BC during his conquest of the world. It rapidly developed into the greatest metropolis of the ancient world, reaching an estimated population of one million by the first century BC. At the time of Christ, the city was superseded only by Rome.

- ii. Under the rule of the Egyptian Ptolemies, Alexandria became the literary and scientific center of the world. Its university molded much of the philosophical thought of the time. The famous library of Alexandria contained half a million or more books and rolls. Vigorously pursued were the studies of mathematics, astronomy, poetry, and medicine. Alexandria was a Greek city by founding and thought; but because of the city's open-mindedness, it became a city known for its cosmopolitan collection of the religions and philosophies from the known world. It was in this environment that the Jewish theologian Philo first combined Judaism with Platonism to establish the allegorical approach to the Old Testament.

2. Sailing to Rome (Acts 27:6)

- a) See Appendix on "The Tale of Three Cities – Alexandria and Rome (Pages I through IX)

iii. Coming to Fair Havens (Acts 27:7-8)

C. The Decision to Continue (Acts 27:9-13)

- i. Paul's advice (Acts 27:9-10, 21)
- ii. The ship owner's advice (Acts 27:11-12)
 - 1. Believed by the centurion over the advice of Paul
 - 2. Like people today

- a) Folks would rather believe “the experts” and their own understanding than the man of God. Today people do it in:
 - i. Raising children
 - ii. Marriage
 - iii. Education
 - iv. Seeking a job
 - v. What church to attend
 - vi. Etc.
 - b) The word of God should be the guide (Joshua 9:14; Proverbs 3:5; Jeremiah 9:23-24; 1 Corinthians 3:18-20)
 - iii. The weather’s deceit (Acts 27:13)
 - 1. Just like the weather, the world and circumstances can deceive
 - 2. Things that seem right according to the flesh many times are not (Proverbs 14: 12; Proverbs 16:25; Proverbs 30:12)
 - iv. The cost to continue
 - 1. Struggles
 - a) Tempest (Acts 27:16-17)
 - b) Tossed by the sea (Acts 27:27)
 - c) Fear (Acts 27:29)
 - d) Starvation (Acts 27:33)
 - e) Threat of loss of life (Acts 27:42-43)
 - 2. Loss
 - a) The loosing of the tackling (Acts 27:18-19)
 - b) Declared by Paul (Acts 27:21)
 - c) The loss of the cargo (Acts 27:38)
 - d) The loss of the ship (Acts 27:41)
- II. THE WIND CALLED EUROCLYDON (Acts 27:14-29)
- A. Driven with the Wind (Acts 27:14-17)
 - i. Unable to proceed (Acts 27:14-15)
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ii. Escaping shipwreck (Acts 27:16-17)

B. Lightening the Ship (Acts 27:18-20)

i. Tossed with the tempest (Acts 27:18-19)

ii. Losing all hope (Acts 27:20)

C. Hearing from Paul (Acts 27:21-26)

i. A message of rebuke (Acts 27:21)

ii. A message of hope (Acts 27:22-25)

iii. A message of trials (Acts 27:26)

D. Coming to Land (Acts 27:27-29)

i. Sounding the depths (Acts 27:27-28)

ii. Casting the anchors (Acts 27:29)

III. THE LOSS OF THE SHIP (Acts 27:30-44)

A. The Leadership of Paul (Acts 27:30-38)

i. In keeping them together (Acts 27:30-32)

ii. In breaking their fast (Acts 27:33-38)

B. The Safe Passage to Land (Acts 27:39-44)

i. The grounding of the ship (Acts 27:39-41)

ii. The safe passage of all (Acts 27:42-44)