

Witnesses to Christ
Studies in the Acts of the Apostles

The Shipwreck
Lesson 21
Acts 27

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
May 22, 2016

The New Covenant Age

- ▶ Acts – a transitional time
- ▶ The Law of Moses and the nation Israel set aside
- ▶ Preaching the Gospel to all the world
- ▶ The Church of Jesus Christ
- ▶ Pentecost – slow appreciation of the change
- ▶ A time of tribulation (Acts 14:22)

Acts 27 – The Shipwreck

- ▶ No Gospel message
- ▶ No sermons
- ▶ No mention of Jesus Christ
- ▶ No report of salvation
- ▶ No moral summary – “they all were brought safely to land”
- ▶ Narrative – factual account
- ▶ Valuable source of ancient sailing techniques
- ▶ The Word of God

Acts 27 – Outline

27:1-5 – Sailing to Myra

27:6-8 – Sailing to Fair Havens

27:9-13 – Sailing to Phoenix

27:14-20 – The hurricane

27:21-26 – Paul's encouragement

27:27-38 – The last night

27:39-44 – Shipwreck and safety

PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME



Sailing to Myra (27:1-5)

- ▶ Decision made for Paul to go to Rome
- ▶ Paul delivered to Julius, Centurion of the Augustan cohort
- ▶ Other prisoners sent
- ▶ Adramyttian ship
- ▶ Aristarchus and Luke present
- ▶ First stop at Sidon – day release for Paul
- ▶ Sailing to Myra: between Cyprus and Cilicia and Pamphylia
- ▶ Avoiding contrary winds
- ▶ Arrived at Myra in Lycia

Sailing to Italy (27:6-8)

- ▶ Alexandrian ship
- ▶ Set sail for Italy
- ▶ Hindered by contrary winds
- ▶ Landed at Fair Havens

Sailing to Phoenix (27:9-13)

- ▶ After the fast – late September to early October
- ▶ Paul's warning
- ▶ Looking for a place to winter
- ▶ A fateful decision
- ▶ A moderate south wind
- ▶ Set sail for Phoenix

The Hurricane (27:14-20)

- ▶ Euraquilo – northeaster (wind)
- ▶ Sailing in the storm – day 1: driven below Claudia
 - Preparation for storm
 - Fear of Syrtis
- ▶ Sailing in the storm – day 2: jettisoned the cargo
- ▶ Sailing in the storm – day 3: threw ship gear overboard
- ▶ Many days in the storm . . . no hope of survival

Paul's Re-assuring Word (27:21-26)

- ▶ No food “for a long time”
- ▶ Paul's rebuke
- ▶ A word from Paul's God
- ▶ No loss of life
- ▶ Paul will stand before Caesar
- ▶ Will run aground on a “certain island”

The Fourteenth Night (27:27-38)

- ▶ Land suspected
- ▶ Soundings – 20, then 15 fathoms (fathom = 6 feet)
- ▶ Fear of running aground – cast anchors and prayed
- ▶ Attempt by sailors to escape
- ▶ Paul's warning and Centurion's response
- ▶ Paul's encouragement to the people
- ▶ Further lightening the ship

Shipwreck and Safety (27:39-44)

- ▶ Land not recognized but a bay with beach seen
- ▶ Determination to beach the ship
- ▶ Ship struck a reef and began to break up
- ▶ Centurion rescued the prisoners in order to protect Paul
- ▶ Centurion commanded all to abandon the ship
- ▶ All safely brought to land – "And so it happened . . ."

What shall we say to these things?

Romans 8:31

- ▶ The power of God
 - A real world – stage for the work of salvation
 - A providential rule
 - Discriminating power (1 Peter 1:3-5)
- ▶ The wisdom of God
 - Romans 11:33 – unsearchable and unfathomable
 - Proverbs 1:2-3 – to know wisdom and instruction
 - Thomas Boston: “Every one knows what is most pleasant to him, but God alone knows what is most profitable.”
- ▶ The faith of Paul
 - I belong to God, serve God and believe God (27:23, 25)
 - Christ builds His church (Romans 8:28-39)
 - Trial of faith is precious to God (1 Peter 1:7)
 - Two works of God – sanctification and ministry

Learning Doctrine Amid Disaster at Sea

- ▶ Comfort – the power and wisdom of God
- ▶ Trust in the LORD and in His Word – Prov 3:5-6