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
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