

Zealous Toward God – Part 2 of 3

Acts 27

26 ends with Paul being sent to Rome to appeal before Caesar. He just gave a great sermon to Agrippa – “almost thou persuadest me to become a Christian.”

God had promised Paul [23:11] that he would make it to Rome. Acts 27-28 records trek.

26-28 are grouped together in our study of the “ABCs of Acts” – Zealous Towards God

1. Journey Begins – Acts 27:1-8

- Few weeks journey that took months.
- 1: We – Luke now on trip; Aristarchus [20:4] also on trip, probably paid for passage. Other – Greek – different kind; cohort – 600-100
- 2: Caesarea – principle seaport of Palestine; Adramyttium – W Coast of Asia, near Troas
- Aristarchus – “my fellow prisoner” Col. 4:10
- 3: Sidon: trading stop in Phoenicia; most prisoners stayed below deck, P allowed out
- 4: Summer winds were from W – impossible to enter in Med. Sea. P used these winds 2 yrs. ago to his advantage
- 5: N of Cyprus – familiar spots to P; Cilicia – Tarsus here; Pamphylia – P&B landed on 1st Missionary Journey; Myra – SW Asia Minor
- 6: cargo of wheat [38]; homebased of ship – Alexandria [28:11]; 180ft X 45ft X 43ft
- 7: Cnidus: Southern tip of Roman province of Asia. 170mi from Myra
- 8: Fair Haven – ½ way across island of Crete

2. Warned by Paul – Acts 27:9-12

- 9: hope to get to Rome by Oct. diminished daily; bad sailing on Med. Sea mid-Sept. to mid-Nov.; fast: Jewish Day of Atonement – Lv. 16:29 – Ramsay: AD 59 October 5.
- 10: P upset of news of leaving
- 11: captain: owner of ship
- 12: Phoenix: [Phineka] protected from winter blasts from E & NE

3. Adventures on the Sea – Acts 27:13-44

- 13: “Calm before the storm”
- 14: few hours away disaster struck; Euroclydon – sailor’s name for typhoon, like “Northeaster;” hybrid of Greek for East wind & Latin for North wind
- 15: ship at mercy of wind and waves

- 16: SE for several hours
- 17: Shallows of Syrtis – sandbars N. of Africa
- 18: heard howling winds, cracking timbers, straining ropes; livelihood depends on cargo
- 19: everything not needed thrown; Greek – tackle – household furnishings, Matt. 12:39
- 20: no compass, sexton – nav. depended on sun & stars; waterlogged wheat
- 21: low point of story. Luke included himself in giving up. P not to scold but to encourage
- 22,23: confidence rang about howling winds
- 24,25: extending courage given earlier, 23:11
- 26: Good news & bad – saved but not easy
- 27: island [Malta, 28:1] 500mi W of where storm first struck; Adriatic Sea – E Central Section of Med. Sea, not b/t Greece & Italy
- 28: fathom: ropes with knots 6ft apart; 20 fathoms = 120ft; 15 fathoms = 90ft
- 29: literally “prayed for the day”
- 30: desperate plan almost guaranteed to fail
- 31: no sailor = no hope of navigating
- 32: exhausting all attempts at desertion
- 33: 3 step plan; 1] strengthen body
- 34: 2] strengthen their spirits
- 35: 3] demonstrated he believed the promise
- 36: calmness courageous
- 37: Luke might’ve done a headcount to see how much food was needed
- 38: tossing cargo over made ship higher
- 39: “St. Paul’s Bay” – NE coast of Malta
- 40: 3 more steps: 1] cast off 4 anchors; 2] move rudders; 3] hoisted sail for extra power
- 41: sand and rocks piled up
- 42: panic reigned again – soldiers panicked not sailors – wanted to kill
- 43: God intervened through Julius
- 44: P survivor of 3 shipwrecks might’ve given Julius this suggestion.
- 2nd headcount of water-logged people showed none were lost at sea!

Lessons:

1. God has used all sorts of people to accomplish His Will all throughout the history of the world – from the best of the best to the lowest of the low.
2. When God makes a promise, not one word of it will fail – 1 Kings 8:56.
3. Since we know God’s promises are true, we should learn the promises and use them to grow stronger in our faith.

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