

# THE BOOK OF ACTS

## ACTS 27:1-27 | LESSON SUMMARY

### The Storm

**ACTS 27:1**, ""And when it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan Cohort named Julius." (ESV)

- Most of the "other prisoners" are likely condemned criminals who will die in the arena
  - Paul receives favor likely because he is not condemned, but also his godly character
  - Roman soldiers often accompanied prisoner transports
    - In this case, they are on board a grain ship traveling from Egypt to Rome
  - The typical grain ship was 140' x 36' and was not designed to travel in high winds
- Luke is writing firsthand, which tells us that he is on board when the events take place

Adramyttium → Sidon → Myra in Lycia  
Alexandrian Grain Ship headed to Italy → Fair Havens

**ACTS 27:9**, "Since much time had passed, and the voyage was now dangerous because even the Fast was already over..."



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- "Fast" = "Feast of Atonement"
  - October 5th
  - "Even the fast" emphasizes how late in the season it was
- Dangerous season for sailing September 14th–November 11th
  - Paul has already been shipwrecked three times: "Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea..." (2 Corinthians 11:25, ESV)
  - Paul warns those in charge

**ACTS 27:11**, "But the centurion paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul said." (ESV)

- Northeaster strikes the ship and desperate measures are taken, including securing the skiff and throwing cargo overboard

**ACTS 27:20**, "When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned." (ESV)



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- Verse 21, Paul begins with "you should have listened to me"
  - He proceeds to prophesy their safety
  - "For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.'" (27:23-24)
- Paul insists they run aground

**ACTS 27:27**, "When the fourteenth night had come, as we were being driven across the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors suspected that they were nearing land." (ESV)

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** Edward D. Andrews, Archeology and the New Testament, Kelly Leslie, Philosophers, Jews and Christians in the Roman Empire: authority, text and tradition, F.F. Bruce, The Book of Acts

