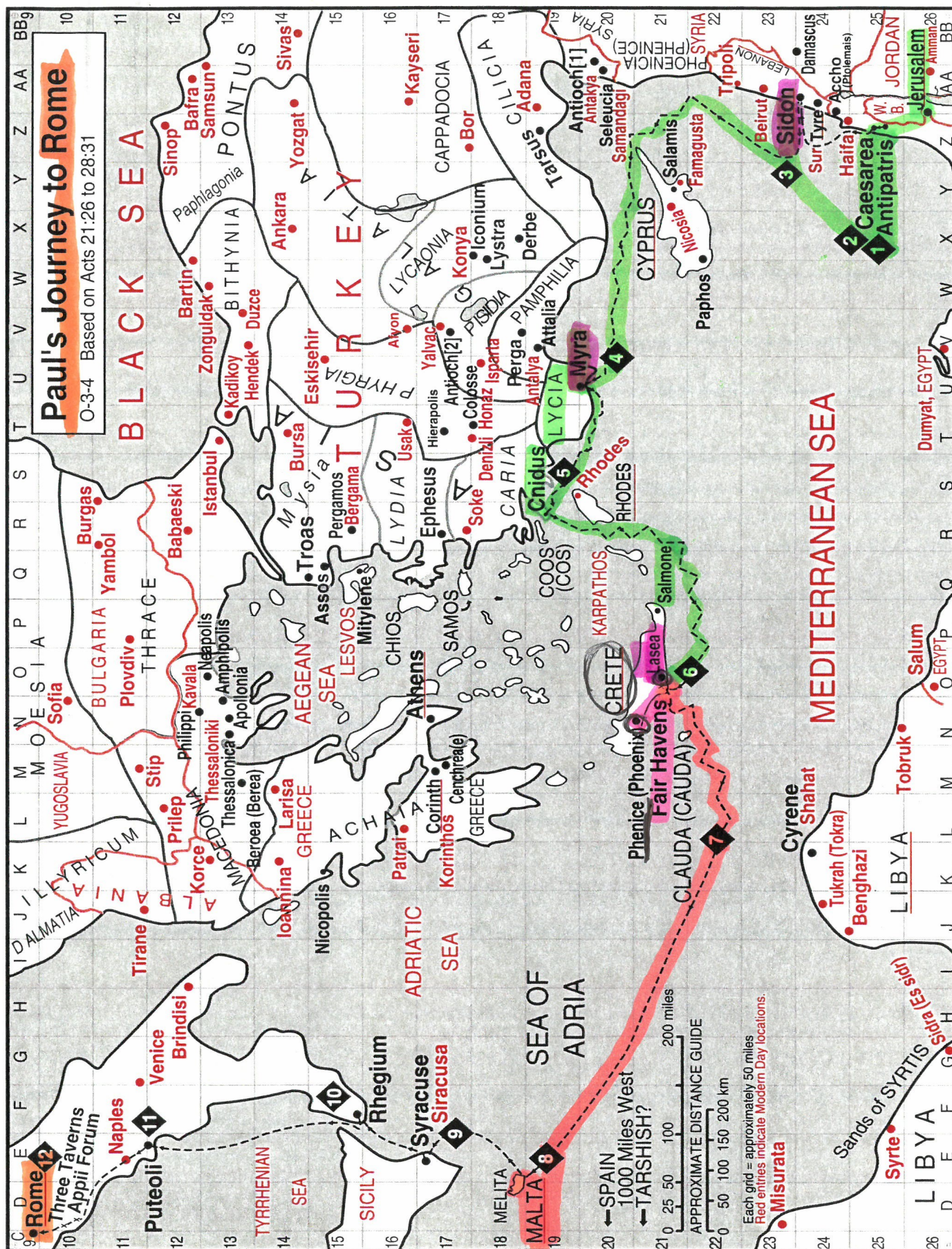


## ACTS 27:1-44





Intro: Paul has appealed to Caesar and, since he has Roman citizenship, his journey to Rome starts as the centurion soldier leads the way. Also remember, Acts is more than an historic storytelling book. Acts has been that transitioning from the prophetic kingdom program to today's grace mystery body program!

1. This transition has been progressive and gradual in nature. This allowed for Israel to either accept or reject God's kingdom offer. After Israel rejected the 12's kingdom offer, God, in mercy, called/saved Saul/Paul to begin the body church program. Still, because of God's and Paul's love for a diminishing Israel, Paul went first to the Jews - then to the Gentiles. During this period, signs and miracles were involved for the convincing of the Jews and for the sake of the Jews. This, through Paul, would help them to grasp a little about the temporary setting aside of Israel and the delay in the promised coming kingdom.
2. I also believe the transition was gradual so that the 12 could handle it (not completely understand it), and to allow Paul (a Jew also) to grow and mature in the revelations he received about the Dispensation of Grace. Over time (20-30 years), Paul would experience the burdens of ministry while receiving more revelations from God.

II Corinthians 12:1 - It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

**\*\*Again remember, as Acts' history has unfolded up to this chapter, Paul had already written I and II Corinthians, Romans, and Galatians.**

3. So as Paul leaves Jerusalem to go to Rome, it is a significant transfer of God's blessings from Israel to the Gentiles. Soon Paul's ministry will no longer be to the Jew first. When Paul does arrive in Rome, he will tell the Jewish leaders there: [ For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and *that* they will hear it. - Acts 28:27-28]

**\*\*The Gentiles are now to occupy the prominent place in the purpose of God, because now more Gentiles worship and believe Israel's God - Christ - work!**

4. Even though God's grace is offered equally to Jew and Gentile, since Israel said no as a nation to Christ, today is mainly a Gentile dispensation.

Colossians 1:27 - To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

A.

Acts 27:1-8 - And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto *one* named Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band. Acts 27:2 And entering into a ship of Adramyttium, we launched, meaning to sail by the coasts of Asia; *one* Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, being with us. Acts 27:3 And the next *day* we touched at Sidon. And Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave *him* liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself. Acts 27:4 And when we had launched from thence, we sailed under Cyprus, because the winds were contrary. Acts 27:5 And when we had sailed over the sea of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, *a city* of Lycia. Acts 27:6 And there the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing into Italy; and he put us therein. Acts 27:7 And when we had sailed slowly many days, and scarce were come over against Cnidus, the wind not suffering us, we sailed under Crete, over against Salmone; Acts 27:8 And, hardly passing it, came unto a place which is called The fair havens; nigh whereunto was the city of Lasea.

1. After Paul had been in the prison barracks for two years, it was time to start his journey to eventually end up in Rome. This would fulfill God's purpose and promise for Paul.
2. God providentially and graciously worked it out for Paul to have two friends allowed to sail with him. That would be Dr. Luke and Aristarcus. The centurion in charge is Julius. Julius shows Paul respect and compassion by allowing Paul to visit with friends at Sidon. They go from Sidon past Cyprus in difficult weather and end up in Myra's port.

\*\*As they board another ship (Alexandrian) that would sail to Italy, once again the winds were horribly against them. It took many days to make it to Cnidus, to sail south to Crete, then by Salmone and on to Lasea's bay.

B.

Acts 27:9-13 - Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now already past, Paul admonished *them*, Acts 27:10 And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives. Acts 27:11 Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul. Acts 27:12 And because the haven was not commodious to winter in, the more part advised to depart thence also, if by any means they might attain to Phenice, *and there* to winter; *which is* an haven of Crete, and lieth toward the south west and north west. Acts 27:13 And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained *their* purpose, loosing *thence*, they sailed close by Crete.

1. As they waited for a favorable wind, it now was becoming dangerous to travel because it was late in the sailing season. It was problematic and very dangerous from mid-September to mid-November. Most sailing in the open sea ceased from mid-November to at least February.

\*\*The Day of Atonement (fast) fell late in September or early October. So, Paul's ship was already well in the danger period for sailing.

2. Evidently Julius and the owner were deciding what to do. Paul was given permission to speak. Paul wisely cautioned them not to gamble. Since they had already experienced bad winds, why chance it?  
Paul said it would be wise just to remain where they were for the winter. Too much was at stake.
3. They considered Paul's warning, but were willing to take the risk. They didn't want to stay there for the winter and possibly have problems in this port. Their hope was to reach Phenice (30 miles away) and winter there. As the winds momentarily changed, that gave them hope to go on and sail.

C.

Acts 27:14-26 - But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon. Acts 27:15 And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let *her* drive. Acts 27:16 And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the boat: Acts 27:17 Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven. Acts 27:18 And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next *day* they lightened the ship; Acts 27:19 And the third *day* we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship. Acts 27:20 And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on *us*, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away. Acts 27:21 But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

Acts 27:22 And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of *any man's* life among you, but of the ship. Acts 27:23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Acts 27:24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. Acts 27:25 Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. Acts 27:26 Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island.

1. It was only 30 miles to the port of Phenice, so the anchor was lifted and they set sail. As they swang closely by Crete, they were anticipating a problem-**free** voyage across the bay to Phenice. Everything looked good.
2. But suddenly Paul's concern came to pass, as winds of a typhonic force called Eurocydon (Northeast) hit. This storm was so fast and powerful that they did not have time to furl the mainsail, or do anything to help **control** the ship. Their ship was caught in such a tempest it couldn't bear up in the wind. All they could do was to **let** themselves be driven/guided by the storm. They almost wrecked on the island of Clauda. It must have been frightening!
  - \* These sailors showed **excellent** seamanship by tightening the lower ropes to help hold the ship
  - \* together. They then lessened some sails to avoid beaching on the rocks, which would have torn
  - \* the ship apart. They now weren't trying to make progress, but to weather the storm and **survive**.
3. The day following, they tried to **lighten** the ship by throwing overboard some of its cargo. As days went by, not able to navigate, they had no idea where they were. All **hope** had vanished. Evidently too much water was being taken in. The ship had been reduced to a leaky, battered, dismantled hulk that was **barely** floating.
4. Right at that moment, with them not knowing what to do, God's **man** steps up. Paul gives them his message of hope!
  - a. While the crew had been pleading with their **gods**, no doubt Paul had been in touch with the **only** true God and had been given assurance of their safe arrival one day in **Rome**.
  - b. Paul humbly shares that they should have listened to his previous warning. I believe Paul tactfully reminds them of this so that they would listen to him at **this** seemingly hopeless moment.
  - c. Paul continues to tell them to "be of good cheer" because no **one** on the vessel would be lost, but that only the ship would go down into the sea. What **faith** Paul has. He is standing on a battered and sinking ship going down...and his God says...all will be ok!
  - d. In verses 23-24, Paul shares how God's angel came and gave him assurance of their protection and **deliverance**. Their safety was because of **Paul** being with them. Paul says he believed His God will get him and them to Rome. Since God said He would do it, it is a done deal - so lift your heads up!

**\*\*The only problem they would encounter would be that the ship would be wrecked near an island.**

D.

Acts 27:27-44 - But when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country; Acts 27:28 And sounded, and found *it* twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little further, they sounded again, and found *it* fifteen fathoms. Acts 27:29 Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day.

Acts 27:30 And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship, Acts 27:31 Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved. Acts 27:32 Then the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off. Acts 27:33 And while the day was coming on, Paul besought *them* all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing. Acts 27:34 Wherefore I pray you to take *some* meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you. Acts 27:35 And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken *it*, he began to eat. Acts 27:36 Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took *some* meat. Acts 27:37 And we were in all in the ship two hundred three-score and sixteen souls. Acts 27:38 And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, and cast out the wheat into the sea. Acts 27:39 And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into the which they were minded, if it were possible, to thrust in the ship. Acts 27:40 And when they had taken up the anchors, they committed *themselves* unto the sea, and loosed the rudder bands, and hoised up the mainsail to the wind, and made toward shore. Acts 27:41 And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast, and remained unmoveable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves. Acts 27:42 And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape. Acts 27:43 But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from *their* purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast *themselves* first *into the sea*, and get to land: Acts 27:44 And the rest, some on boards, and some on *broken pieces* of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.

1. Though a prisoner, Paul stands **up** to calm the chaos as some were wanting to abandon ship. But Paul warns them that if they go out into the sea in lifeboats...they will **die**. The only safe place, at that moment, was to stay aboard the ship.
2. On the 14th night since their departure, after two weeks of effort and terror, their ordeal was about over. They began to see that the water was **shallower**, meaning they were getting closer to **land**.
  - \* Though they did not know it, they were approaching the island of Malta, south of Sicily. All they
  - \* knew was that they could hear the waves hitting the shore. They were in a pitch-black night in a
  - \* howling storm!
3. Some began to let down the lead that told them they were approaching land. Their fear was hitting the rocks, so they immediately dropped anchor in hopes it would stabilize the ship until the morning.
 

**\*\*However, the ship was breaking apart and that is when some of the sailors **plotted** to let down the rescue boats, to desert the ship and passengers. But Paul, suspecting their purpose, tells the centurion that **unless they all stay** to help, they would be lost. Immediately the sailors cut the ropes to the boats and the plot is foiled.**
4. As dawn approached, Paul encouraged everyone to **eat** for strength since they had eaten little for 14 days. They needed strength for the last hurdle...getting from the ship to the shore (**276** people). Paul promised that God had told him nothing about them would be harmed.
 

**\*\*Can you see the effect Paul is having on everyone? [Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat.]**

5. As day broke, they all began to lighten the ship more. They needed to get the ship floating as **high** as possible so they could try and run it into the shore. Looking through the stormy rain, not knowing where they were, they saw a bay that had a **beach**. They lifted anchors, or cut them loose, with the hope of driving their ship onto the beach. They set their mainsail and headed toward the beach.
6. As they whipped toward shore, they ran aground before making it to the beach. They became stuck and were easy prey for the fierce winds and waves. The ship **im**mediately began to break **up** into pieces from the pounding waves.

**\*\*Now quick decisions had to be made, especially with regard to the prisoners. The disciplined Roman soldiers called for immediate **ex**ecution. This was because if any of the prisoners escaped, it would have cost the soldiers their lives. These soldiers wanted to save their own lives at the expense of sacrificing the prisoners if need be.**

7. Julius, the centurion, kept the soldiers from performing the execution. Julius wanted Paul saved and for him to safely arrive in Rome. Paul had repeatedly proven his **value** and Julius had grown to **re**spect Paul as the voyage had progressed. Julius commanded the soldiers not to harm anyone, but to **swim** to shore.

- a. \* Those who could swim did and those who could not hung onto floating debris and the waves  
\* took them onto the shore. Paul, having been shipwrecked **three** times already, probably sug-  
\* gested for the passengers to do this.
- b. Amazingly, **all** 276 aboard made it to shore **safely**. As God had promised Paul, not **one** would be lost!

E.

Lessons: Paul as a Leader
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1. A leader is **tr**usted - Paul convinced Julius somehow that he (Paul) could be trusted and to heed to what he said.
  2. A leader takes the **ini**tiative - Paul did not hesitate to give his counsel when they were in danger.
  3. A leader uses good **judg**ment - If Paul's wise advice would have been heeded, the ship would have been spared.
  4. A leader speaks with **auth**ority - Paul confidently told them that all onboard would survive, if they stayed on the ship and did not abandon it.
  5. A leader strengthens **oth**ers - Paul three times encouraged the crew and passengers. His optimism and confidence in God and His Word calmed all.
  6. A leader **never** compromises his absolutes - God said absolutely all would be saved. Paul refused to waiver on what God told him.
  7. A leader leads by **ex**ample - Paul, at the peak of the people's despair, stepped up and demonstrated faith in God. He got them to eat and be of good cheer - God is with all.
- \* "Everything rises or falls on leadership". Because of Paul, God spared them all! Paul knew how to  
\* **pray**, how to have **faith**, and how to have **intimacy with the Almighty**.