### Acts

## Chapter 27

1Well, since it had been decided that we had to sail away to Italy, they handed Paul (along with some other prisoners) over to a centurion named Julius, who was [a soldier] of the Augustus Division.  
  
2So we boarded a ship along with AristArchus (a Macedonian from ThesSalonica).  
  
  
Now, the ship had come from AdraMyttium, and it was sailing to places along the coast of the [province of] Asia. 3So the next day, when we landed at Sidon, Julius treated Paul very kindly by allowing him to visit friends that cared for his needs.  
  
4From there we sailed around Cyprus, because the winds were against us.  
  
5Then we got into the open sea [south of] Kilikia and PamPhylia, and we put into port at Myra in Lukias. 6There the centurion found a ship that was coming from Alexandria and sailing for Italy, which he made us board.  
  
7Then, after sailing slowly (and with a lot of difficulty) for several days, we stopped at Knidos. And because the winds wouldn’t let us go on, we sailed [south of] Salmone, Crete.  
  
8Then following the coastline carefully, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near the city of Lasea.  
  
  
9Well, since we’d lost so much time (it was already past [Yom Kippur]) and the sea was hazardous to navigate, Paul made a recommendation.  
  
10He said:  
  
 ‘Men, I see that any further navigation is going to result in damage and huge losses not only to the cargo and ship, but to our lives!’  
  
11However, the army officer preferred to listened to the pilot and the ship’s owner, rather than to what Paul was saying.  
  
12Now, since this harbor was a poor place to winter, the majority recommended that they set sail and go on, in an attempt to make it to Phoenix, where they could spend the winter (a harbor in Crete that has openings to the northeast and southeast).  
  
13Well, when the south wind started blowing gently, they thought that this would meet their needs... So they weighed anchor and coasted along the shore next to Crete. 14But after a little while, a typhoon wind they call the Euro Clydon bore down on us!  
  
15And because the ship was being tossed so violently that it couldn’t maintain its heading, we just gave up and [allowed ourselves to be] carried along by the wind.  
  
16Then when we passed south of a small island called Cauda, we used all our strength to get hold of the rowboat that was tied at the rear of the ship.  
  
17And after we hoisted it aboard, they started wrapping the ship with [ropes and chains]. Also, since they were afraid of running aground on the shoals, they lowered the masts and we were just carried along.  
  
18Then on the next day (because we were still being violently tossed by the storm), they started to lighten the ship. 19And by the third [day], they’d tossed all of the boat’s furnishings overboard with their own hands!  
  
20Now, since we hadn’t seen the sun or stars for several days and a storm was still over us, we’d lost any hope of being saved… 21And considerable time had elapsed since anyone had been able to eat.  
  
But then Paul stood up in the midst of them and said:  
  
 ‘Men, you certainly should have taken my advice and not put out to sea from Crete, just to suffer this kind of damage and loss. 22But now I’m telling you to be happy, because not a single life will be lost… Although the ship will [be lost]... 23Because a messenger from the God whom I serve and belong to, came to me this evening and said:  
  
 24‘Don’t be afraid, Paul. You’ll stand before Caesar.  
  
 ‘And {Look!} God has favored you by also giving you [the lives of] those who are sailing with you.’  
  
 25‘So be happy, men! Because, I believe that God will do exactly as He told me! 26However, we’ll be cast ashore on an island.’  
  
27Well thereafter (on the evening starting the 14th day), as we were being carried along in the Adriatic Sea (at about midnight), the sailors thought that we might be getting close to land...  
  
28So they did a depth sounding and found it at 120 feet (37m).  
  
Then after we’d traveled on a little farther, they took another depth sounding, and this time it was 91 feet (27.8m).  
  
29So, because they were afraid that we might soon run aground on the rocks, they threw out four anchors at the stern and we waited for daylight.  
  
30Meanwhile, the crew tried to escape from the ship by lowering the rowboat into the sea as they were pretending to drop the anchors from the prow. 31But Paul then told the centurion and his soldiers:  
  
 ‘Unless those men stay on this ship, you can’t be saved.’  
  
32So the soldiers cut away the ropes that held the rowboat and let it drop.  
  
33Well, very close to dawn, Paul encouraged everyone to eat something, saying:  
  
 ‘Today makes the 14th day that you’ve been on watch, and during all that time you’ve gone without food or taking anything else into you.  
  
 34‘So I encourage you to eat something, since that will help you to survive. Then, not so much as a hair on any of your heads will be destroyed!’  
  
35And after he said this, he took a loaf [of bread], gave thanks to God before them all, broke it, and started eating. 36So they all became more cheerful and started eating some food.  
  
37At the time, there were 276 people on the ship. 38And after they’d eaten enough food, they lightened the boat some more by throwing all of the wheat into the sea.  
  
39However, when it finally became light, they didn’t recognize where they were… There was just a bay with a beach, and they decided to try to get to the beach in the ship.  
  
40So they cut away the anchors, letting them drop into the sea; then they untied the ropes that held the rudder, hoisted the foresail to the wind, and headed for the beach… 41But then they hit a shoal out in the water, where the ship ran aground (the prow was stuck and it couldn’t be moved), and the stern started falling apart in the crashing waves.  
  
42Well at that, the soldiers decided to kill the prisoners to keep them from swimming away and escaping. 43But because the centurion wanted Paul to make it, he prevented them from doing that.  
  
He just told everyone who could swim to dive into the sea and get to the shore first, 44then the rest could [float in] on planks and other things from the ship… And that’s how everyone got to land safely.