

Fact Sheet for **“The Voyage and Shipwreck of Paul”**  
**Acts 27:1-44**

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07/20/2014

Have you ever been seasick? Have you ever been afraid (finances, children/ grandchildren, employment, health, details, danger)? Is God ever out of control of your life? Consider the voyage and shipwreck to Paul.

**Acts 27:1**

Paul was put in the custody of another centurion... another person to expose to the gospel.

**Acts 27:2**

This was the 1<sup>st</sup> ship.

Asia = Asia Minor

Aristarchus (see Colossians 4:10; Philemon 1:23-24)

**Acts 27:3**

Sidon was on the coast north of Caesarea, west of Damascus.

**Acts 27:4-5**

“lee” – shelter (N of Cyprus)

Cilicia, Pamphylia, and Lycia were regions on the southern coast of Asia Minor.

Their course would have been jagged.

**Acts 27:6**

This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> ship.

**Acts 27:7-8**

Cnidus was on the SW coast of Asia Minor

**Acts 27:9-10**

The “Fast” is a reference to the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur, September/October).

After that time of year the weather patterns over the Mediterranean sea made sailing hazardous.

Paul’s advice was likely based on his experiences (see 2 Corinthians 11:25).

**Acts 27:11-17**

Cauda (Clauda) was an island 25 miles S of Crete.

The lifeboat was usually pulled in tow, but now it was probably full of water.

They undergirded the ship with ropes so that the beams would stay tight and not leak due the battering by the storm.

The sandbars of Syrtis were located off of Lybia in North Africa.

“They lowered the gear” - anchor

**Acts 27:18-24**

How would a crew who were likely not Christians have taken this? Consider Jonah 1:11-15.

**Acts 27:25-27**

The Adriatic Sea extended all the way up behind the boot of Italy.

In two weeks the storm would carry them 600 miles W of Crete to the island of Malta S of Sicily (see Acts 28:1).

**Acts 27:28-29**

1 fathom is about 6 feet, 20 fathoms is about 120 feet, 15 fathoms is about 90 feet

**Acts 27:30-31**

Think about God's knowledge of the outcomes of different scenarios.

**Acts 27:32**

**Acts 27:33-34**

The sailors must have felt rotten.

**Acts 27:35**

Imagine Paul's prayer.

**Acts 27:36-37**

The number of prisoners (v. 42) was not mentioned.

Josephus wrote about a ship which he boarded to Italy which carried 600 passengers.

**Acts 27:38-39**

They didn't recognize the coast.

**Acts 27:40-42**

The soldiers wanted to protect themselves if any of the prisoners escaped.

**Acts 27:43-44**

Paul would need to board a 3<sup>rd</sup> ship to get to Rome.

Who was never afraid in this account? God! God knew His plan. God knew the outcome of this voyage. God made certain Paul would not die, as well as all the others on the ship.

Paul had a direct revelation from the Almighty about this. We don't. But God never changes. He still works his plan for us and others.

Our fear about things we face grows strong as our trust in God grows weak. Our fear about things we face grows weak as our trust in God grows strong.

The things we face may not turn out as we would want, but God has never guaranteed that. He has guaranteed however that He will do His bidding and no one will stop it.

Trust God in the storm! Trust Him for the outcome! Trust Him for His answer! Trust Him for His choices!

The only difference between Paul on that ship and us is that Paul heard directly from God, and we don't. But God has never changed.