

## ***STUDYING THE BOOK OF ACTS*** ***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

### **Lesson 67 - Paul Sails for Rome - [Acts 27:1-12](#)**

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

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#### ***Paul Sails for Rome***

**27** When it was finally decided that we were to sail for Italy, they put Paul and several other prisoners in the custody of a man named Julius, a captain of the Augustan Regiment.

<sup>2</sup> So, after boarding a ship from Adramyttium, we put out to sea, intending to sail along the coast of the province of Asia. Aristarchus from Thessalonica, in northern Greece, was with us.

<sup>3</sup> The next day we docked at Sidon. Captain Julius was very kind to Paul, even letting him go ashore to visit some of his friends and accept their hospitality.

<sup>4</sup> When we put to sea from Sidon, we encountered strong westerly winds blowing against us. So we sailed on the sheltered side of Cyprus.

<sup>5</sup> After sailing along the coasts of the provinces of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we crossed the open sea and landed at Myra in the province of Lycia.

<sup>6</sup> There the captain found a ship from Alexandria that was sailing to Italy, so he put us on board.

<sup>7</sup> For many days we made very slow progress, but with great difficulty we finally arrived off the town of Cnidus. Since the wind wouldn't allow us to continue our course, we sailed along the sheltered side of Crete, offshore from Cape Salmone.

<sup>8</sup> The sailing was difficult here too, but we finally came to a place called Fair Havens, near the town of Lasea.

<sup>9</sup> We had lost a lot of time by now, and sailing had become dangerous because it was already past the Day of Atonement.

<sup>10</sup> So Paul advised them, "Men, from what I can see, this voyage will end in disaster and great loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our own lives."

<sup>11</sup> But the captain paid more attention to the pilot and the owner of the ship than to what Paul said.

<sup>12</sup>Also, because the harbor was not a good one to winter in, most of the men were in favor of putting out to sea and try, if possible, to reach Phoenix, a harbor in Crete which faced both northeast and southeast, and spend the winter there.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Lesson 67 - Paul Sails for Rome - [Acts 27:1-12](#)

- 979. Who accompanied Paul to Italy? ([27:1](#))
- 980. Why did Luke use the term "we"? ([27:1](#))
- 981. Who was in charge of the group? ([27:1](#))
- 982. When Paul and Luke boarded ship, who joined them? ([27:2](#))
- 983. How did Paul's friends support him along the way? ([27:3](#))
- 984. Why was it difficult for Paul's ship to sail? ([27:4](#))
- 985. Where did the group change ships? ([27:5-6](#))
- 986. On the second ship, where did the journey take Paul and the others? ([27:7-8](#))
- 987. Why was sailing difficult after the Day of Atonement? ([27:9](#))
- 988. Why did Paul have the opportunity to offer advice? ([27:9-10](#))
- 989. How were Paul's warnings ignored? ([27:11](#))
- 990. Why did the crew decide to sail on? ([27:12](#))

### Lesson 68 - The Storm - [Acts 27:13-26](#)

#### *The Storm at Sea*

<sup>13</sup>And when a gentle southern breeze began blowing, they believed they had gotten what they had hoped for. So they pulled up anchor and began sailing close to the shore of Crete.

<sup>14</sup>It wasn't long, however, before a fierce gale of hurricane proportions, called a Northeaster, hurled violently down upon us from the island.

<sup>15</sup>It hit the ship so hard that they couldn't keep it headed into the wind. So they just allowed us to be driven along.

16As we sailed along the southern coast of a small island called Clauda, we pulled the lifeboat aboard and tied it down. We even had a hard time doing that.

17Then they put cables underneath the ship to hold it together. Then fearing they would run aground on the quicksands off the coast of Libya, they finally lowered the sail and let her drift.

18The next day, because we were being so violently battered by the storm, they began throwing some of the ship's cargo overboard.

19On the third day, we threw the ship's tackle overboard with our own hands.

20When we hadn't seen the sun or stars for many days, and the violent storm continued to rage, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

21After the men had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up among them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me and not sailed from Crete; then you would have avoided all this damage and loss.

22"But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because no one here will lose his life. Only the ship will be lost.

23"Because last night an angel of the God whom I serve and to whom I belong came and stood by me and said,

24'Don't be afraid, Paul, because you must stand before Caesar. In fact, God has given you a safe arrival for all who are sailing with you.'

25"So cheer up, men, because I'm convinced that God will do exactly what He told me.

26"But, we must run aground on some island."

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Lesson 68 - The Storm - [Acts 27:13-26](#)

991. How was the ship's crew deceived by "a gentle south wind"? ([27:13](#))

992. How was the ship forced away from safety? ([27:14-15](#))

993. What did the Northeaster do to the ship? ([27:15](#))

994. How did Cauda provide a break from the storm? ([27:16](#))

995. What efforts did the men on board make to battle the storm? ([27:16-19](#))

996. At what point did those on board ship give up hope? ([27:20](#))

997. When did Paul speak to the others? ([27:21](#))

998. How did Paul reprimand the crew? ([27:21](#))
999. What message from God did Paul give the crew? ([27:22-26](#))
1000. How did Paul prepare the crew for bad news? ([27:22-26](#))
1001. What did Paul say to encourage everyone on board in spite of the hardships ahead? ([27:22-26](#))
1002. What does this account tell us about God?

### **Lesson 69 - The Shipwreck - [Acts 27:27-44](#)**

<sup>27</sup>Well, about midnight of the fourteenth night, as we were still being carried here and there on the Adriatic Sea, the sailors began to sense that we were approaching some land.

<sup>28</sup>So they dropped a line overboard with a weight on it, and found that the water was 120 feet deep. A short while later they did it again, and it was only 90 feet deep.

<sup>29</sup>Then, fearing we would run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern, and then anxiously waited for daylight.

<sup>30</sup>But then the sailors tried to leave the ship. Pretending they were preparing to drop more anchors from the prow, they lowered the lifeboat into the water.

<sup>31</sup>“Unless these men stay in the ship, you can’t be saved!” Paul warned the captain and the soldiers.

<sup>32</sup>Immediately the soldiers cut the rope to the lifeboat and let it fall away.

<sup>33</sup>It was then about daybreak, so Paul encouraged everyone to eat something. “Today is the 14th day that you’ve been so concerned that you haven’t eaten a thing,” he said.

<sup>34</sup>“So take some nourishment now. You need it in order to survive. Don’t worry any longer, because not a one of you will lose as much as a single hair from your head.”

<sup>35</sup>After saying this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of all of them. Then he broke it and began to eat.

<sup>36</sup>The rest were then all encouraged, and they also took food for themselves.

<sup>37</sup>We were a total of 276 people on that ship.

<sup>38</sup>After they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship further by throwing the wheat overboard.

## ***The Shipwreck***

<sup>39</sup>Even when daylight came, they couldn't recognize what land they had come to, but they noticed a bay with a beach, so they decided, if possible, to run the ship aground there.

<sup>40</sup>So they cut the ropes attached to the anchors, leaving them in the sea. At the same time, others untied the ropes holding the rudder. Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and headed for shore.

<sup>41</sup>But the ship got caught in cross-currents and ran aground on a sandbar. The prow stuck firmly and remained immovable, while violent waves kept smashing into the stern and pounding it to pieces.

<sup>42</sup>The soldiers decided to kill the prisoners to keep them from swimming away and escaping.

<sup>43</sup>But Captain Julius wanted to save Paul, so he kept them from carrying out their plan. Instead, he ordered that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land.

<sup>44</sup>The rest were to get ashore on planks and other broken pieces of the ship. And that's how they all escaped safely to land.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

#### **Lesson 69 - The Shipwreck - [Acts 27:27-44](#)**

1003. How long was the ship at the mercy of the storm? ([27:27](#))
1004. How did the sailors sense that they were approaching land? ([27:27-28](#))
1005. Why did the sailors drop four anchors? ([27:29](#))
1006. Who tried to escape? ([27:30](#))
1007. How did Paul thwart the sailors' plan to escape? ([27:31-32](#))
1008. How did the group resolve their problems of tension and hunger? ([27:33](#), [36](#))
1009. Why did Paul urge those on board to eat? ([27:33-34](#))
1010. What did Paul do to give public testimony to his faith? ([27:35](#))
1011. How many people were on board the ship? ([27:37](#))
1012. What did the men do after they ate? ([27:38](#))

1013. What did the crew decide to do when daylight came? ([27:39-40](#))
1014. What unexpectedly happened to the ship? ([27:41](#))
1015. Why did the centurion save the lives of the prisoners? ([27:42-43](#))
1016. How did Paul's predictions prove to be true? ([27:44](#))