



- Paul is placed on a large ship carrying several other prisoners, 276 on board.
- They are sailing in late September/early October.
- Romans considered sailing in October *doubtful* and in November *suicidal*.
- They make it to Fair Havens, a port on the southern coast of Crete.

Stage 1 – Paul's Forecast

Acts 27:10-12

10 "Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also." 11 But the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship. 12 Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the majority decided that we should sail on, hoping to reach Phoenix and winter there. This was a harbor in Crete, facing both southwest and northwest.

Stage 2 – The Storm

Acts 27:13-15

13 When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. 14 Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the "northeaster," swept down from the island. 15 The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along.

- Crew passes ropes under the ship to help it survive the crashing waves.
- They start tossing cargo overboard to lighten the load.

Stage 3 – God's Promise

Acts 27:22-26

22 But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. 23 Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me 24 and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' 25 So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. 26 Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

- They drift along at the mercy of the storm for two weeks.
- Some of the crew tries to escape using the lifeboats but Paul tells them to stay on the ship if they want to survive.

Stage 4 – Getting Darker

Acts 27:33-38

33 Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. "For the last fourteen days," he said, "you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food—you haven't eaten anything. 34 Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head." 35 After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat. 36 They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves. 37 Altogether there were 276 of us on board. 38 When they had eaten as much as they wanted, they lightened the ship by throwing the grain into the sea.

- They see a bay with a sandy beach and decide to run the ship aground.
- The ship hits a sandbar and starts break apart.

Stage 5 – Rescued in Unexpected Ways

Acts 27:42-44

42 The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent any of them from swimming away and escaping. 43 But the centurion wanted to spare Paul's life and kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. 44 The rest were to get there on planks or on pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land in safety.

When you find yourself in the middle of a storm...

1. Get a clear Word from the Lord

-- Paul understood what God wanted in the midst of the chaos.

2. Take soundings—(stay informed, collect data, etc...)

-- The crew kept checking depth of the water as they approached land.

3. Nourish the body and the soul.

-- They gave thanks and ate a meal together.

4. Do what you can with what you have.

-- Grab a plank or swim, just get to shore.