

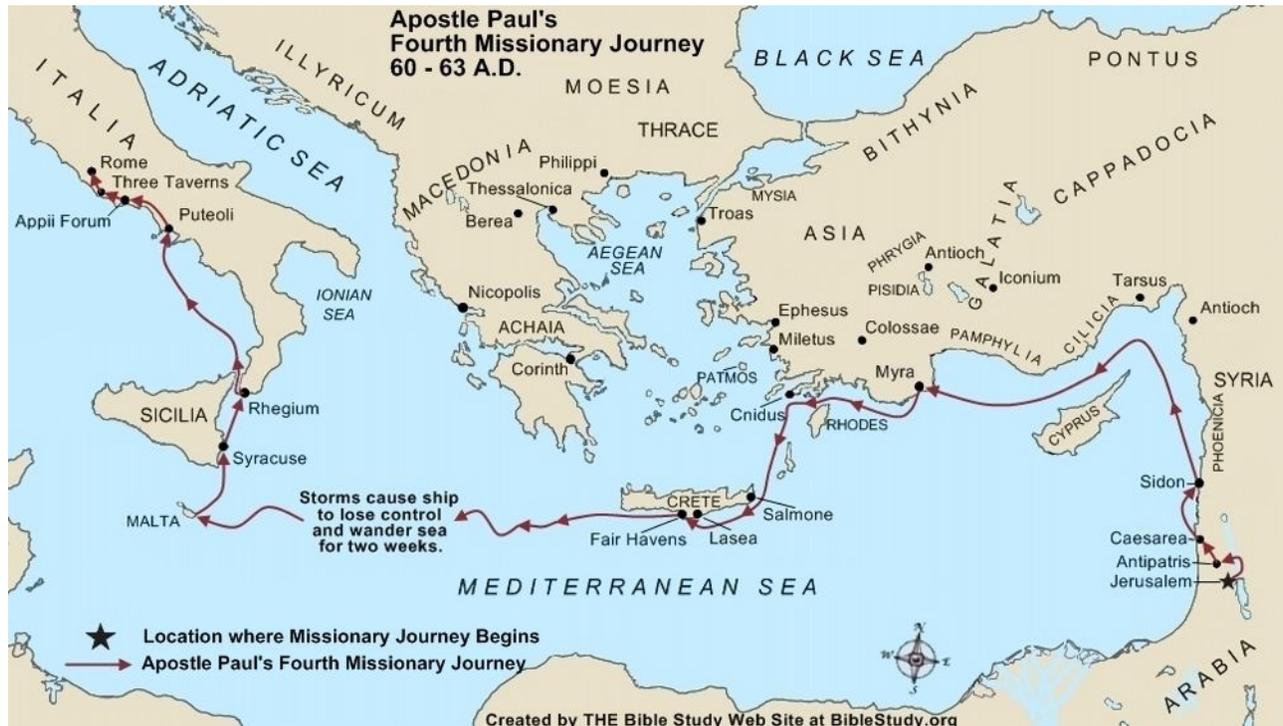
Jesus Christ's work through the Apostles to the Uttermost

Euroclydon says, I told you so!

".... and ye shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judae'a, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." **Acts 1:8**

Introduction: This second to last chapter in the book of Acts contains much movement. Paul will start his sea journey aboard a ship called Adramyttium. As they go, they will end up in a place called "the fair havens." It is here that the warning is given by Paul about danger ahead. So much is contained in this passage that parallels our Christian life. The deceitfulness of sin gently blows and the warning has been given yet we sail on. In this Paul again finds comfort as God ensures Paul's safety.

- I. Sailing for Rome 1-8
- II. Sound Warning and Soft Winds 9-13
- III. Salvation is of the Lord 14-36
- IV. Shipwreck and Safety 37-44



I. Sailing for Rome 1-8

A. Determination to sail v1-3

1. **v1** Paul is delivered to a Centurion with "certain other prisoners..."
2. We see again the introduction of the personal pronoun "we" indicating Luke is travelling with Paul. In addition, we find that Aristarchus and Trophimus (**II Timothy 4:20**) seem to be travelling with Paul as well.

3. It has been suggested that they passed themselves as Paul's slaves, regardless they were truly a friend and fellow companion to Paul; how greatly we need to show the love of Christ to one another.
4. In Matthew **chapter 25** we find these words concerning our love and support of one another *"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, **when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto **one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.**"***
(Matthew 25:34-40)
5. **v2** They enter into a ship called Adramyttium. (It was so called for the port at which it is from in the northern Aegean Sea by Mysia.)
6. The Augustus band indicates for us a division of the Roman army which "consisted of 400 to 600 men." (Matthew 27:27, Acts 10:1) **Here a Centurion is mentioned** which would have been charged with 100 soldiers. "The legion was subdivided into ten cohorts ("band"), Act 10:1, the cohort into three maniples, and the maniple into two centuries, containing originally 100 men, as the name implies, but subsequently from 50 to 100 men, according to the strength of the legion." -Smith's Bible Dictionary
7. From **verse 37** we know there were at the latter point 276 people aboard the latter vessel. (A score is 20).
8. We are told *"they travel by the coasts of Asia;"*

B. Diverting to a different ship v4-8

1. **v4** They *"sailed under Cyprus,..."* **because of contrary winds.** Here is the first physical sign of resistance in the ocean journey.
2. **v5** They sailed by Cilicia, Pampylia and came to Myra *"a city of Lycia."*
3. **v6** Here they change ships headed to Italy.
4. **v6** It is interesting to note that this ship came from Alexandria which is quite a distance already safely.
5. **v7** Here we see again the **second mention of contrary winds.** *"...the wind not suffering us..."*
6. **v7** They sail against Cnidus, under Crete, and against Salmone.
7. **v8** *"And, **hardly passing it**, came unto a place which is called The fair havens; nigh whereunto was the city of Lasea."* – This is the **third mention of contrary winds.**

8. “The decision was made, then, to launch out away from the mainland, make the best of the weather, and head for Crete, rounded Cape Salmone, struggled along the southern coast, and finally dropped anchor at Fair Havens, the farthest point an ancient sailing ship could go in the face of northwest winds.” – John Phillips
9. They came to a place called the “fair havens” which means “goodly port.” According to Albert Barnes in *ancient Dutch and French Sailing* it is called “the beautiful bay.”

II. Sound Warning and Soft Winds 9-13

A. The wrong time to sail v9

1. **v9** Because much time was spent already, “*sailing was now dangerous....*”
2. **The time frame mentioned by Luke tells us they were in the bad season for sailing.**
3. **The phrase “because *the fast now was already past,...*”** indicates that they would be sometime after the first of October.
4. John Phillips had this to say, ““*The fast was now already past*” is a clear reference to Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. That annual “feast of the Jews” was celebrated in the tenth day of the seventh month (Lev. 23:27), which would be about mid-September to mid-November, at which time all navigation ceased until winter was over.”

THE FEASTS OF THE LORD

THE SEVEN MONTHS CYCLE
OF THE THREE GREAT FESTIVALS

1 PASSOVER

March - April
FIRST MONTH

2 PENTECOST

June
THIRD MONTH

3 TABERNACLES

July - Aug-Sept
SEVENTH MONTH

4 SECOND MONTH

5 FOURTH-FIFTH-SIXTH MONTHS

6 10TH DAY

7 15TH DAY

8 22ND DAY

9 29TH DAY

14TH DAY

15TH DAY

16TH DAY

17TH DAY

18TH DAY

19TH DAY

20TH DAY

21ST DAY

22ND DAY

23RD DAY

REDEMPTION

HOLY WALK

RESURRECTION

HOLY SPIRIT

REGATHERING OF ISRAEL

ATONEMENT FOR ISRAEL

NEW YEARS DAY (NEW MOON)

D.N. OF ATONEMENT

FEAST OF TABERNACLES

ISRAEL'S MILLENNIAL REST

LEVITICUS 24:4-14

EXODUS 16:1-36

LEVITICUS 23:10-14

LEVITICUS 23:15-17

LEVITICUS 23:34-37

LEVITICUS 23:27-28

LEVITICUS 23:26-32

LEVITICUS 23:26-32

LEVITICUS 23:33-34

AMOS 9:11-12, ZECHARIAH 14:1-21

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LEVITICUS 16:1-28

Jewish Month	Approximate Secular Date	This Month's Special Dates
Nissan	March–April	Passover
Iyar	April–May	Lag B'Omer
Sivan	May–June	Shavuot
Tammuz	June–July	
Menachem Av	July–August	Tisha B'Av
Elul	August–September	
Tishrei	September–October	The High Holidays (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur), Sukkot, Shmini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah
Marcheshvan	October–November	
Kislev	November–December	Chanukah
Tevet	December–January	Conclusion of Chanukah
Shevat	January–February	Tu B'Shvat
Adar	February–March	Purim

5. **Romans 13:11,12** *“And that, **knowing the time**, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.”*
6. We ought to know the times and the seasons of the day in which we live. These would end up shipwreck because they **ignored the time**.
7. Notice also, that Paul spoke up. There is something to be said for the wiser to instruct the younger of the dangerous times in which we live.
8. *“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same **commit thou to faithful men**, who shall be able to teach others also.”* **II Timothy 2:2**

B. The warning that is given v10

1. v9 Because Paul knew the time, he *“admonished them,”*
2. He states in **v10** *“I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives.”*
3. **The word perceive here gives the idea of seeing and understanding.** What insight Paul had, no one knows other than what the Bible states, he knew the time.
4. **Notice the mentioning of not only loss of the ship and lading, but Paul warns of their very lives.**
5. When we consider the warnings given to us from the Bible, **we ought to take heed.**
6. Something else to consider, **what would have happened if Paul had not been on this ship?** This should cause us to think of the preserving agent of the presence of God’s people and the restraining of the Holy Spirit in this current dispensation.
7. In contrast also remember Jonah’s presence caused much trouble for the sailors as he attempted to run from God.
8. **Jonah 1:10-12** *“Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them. Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous. And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.”*

C. The wind and wisdom of others v11-13

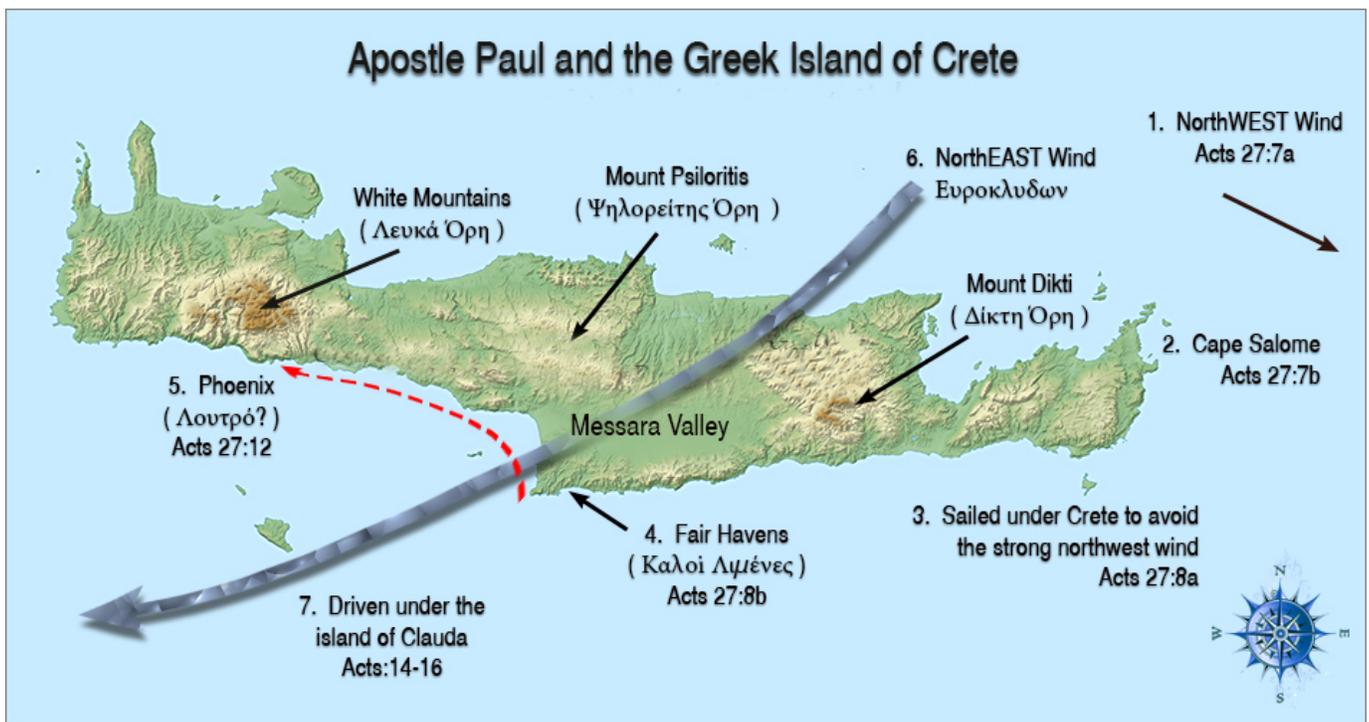
1. **v11** We find these terrible words, *“Nevertheless...”*
2. Many times, people take the worldly wisdom of others or operate on the advice of ungodly men.
3. We think about “professional” proponents of the “theory” of evolution.
4. **v11** The Centurion believed the shipmaster and the owner more than Paul. **These were in concordance with one another and both had vested interest in pressing forward.**
5. **v12** Notice the supplemental reasons: 1. The haven was not “commodious.” (It may have not been fit for difficult weather, concerning the harboring of the ship). 2. The **more part** advised. 3. *“...the south wind blew softly...”*
6. **v12** What is further interesting they were going to go **just a little bit farther** up the island. *“....if by any means they might attain to Phenice, and there to winter.....”*
7. **v13** We see they *“supposing that they had obtained their purpose, loosing thence, they sailed close by Crete.”*
8. The trouble would start pretty soon, but not until they were past a point of return.

III. Salvation is of the Lord

A. Not long after v14-16

1. **v14** *"But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind..."*
2. The storm is so-called by two words "euros" which means **wind** and "kludon" which means **wave**. Aptly put wind and waves.
3. **v15** Notice the Bible says *"the ship was **caught** and could not bear up into the wind..."*
4. **v15** Indicates they could not control which way the ship went.

B. Striking of the Sail v17-19



1. **v16** indicates they had even trouble saving the smaller boat they would use to go ashore with thus the phrase, *"...we had much work to come by the boat:"*
2. **v17** They further undergird the ship. This would be by tying large ropes around the girth of the ship to prevent it from breaking apart.
3. **v17** *"and"* there was more danger... *"lest they should fall into the quicksands..."* they took down the sail trying to slow down the violence of being driven. "There were two celebrated syrtes, or quicksands, on the coast of Africa, called the greater and lesser. They were vast beds of sand driven up by the sea, and constantly shifting their position, so that it could not be known certainly where the danger was. As they were constantly changing their position, they could not be accurately laid down in a chart. The sailors were afraid, therefore, that they should be driven on one of those banks of sand, and thus be lost." – John Gill

4. When they “strake sail” they somehow took down the main sail of the ship either by taking down the mast or otherwise.
5. **b** Indicates this was continuing and no small storm. 3 days had past and they are throwing overboard all the tackling. (This tackling would be extra sails, cables, baggage etc.....)

C. Hope is lost v20

1. First, we see that they had no way of navigation.
2. Second, they had no good way of figuring out the time.
3. **This resulted in the statement**, “...all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.”
4. **Here is a situation when truly man comes to the end of himself and understands that Salvation is of the Lord.**

D. Prayer v21-26

1. No doubt between **verses 14** and **20** Paul had been in much prayer. How do we know this? Because many days had transpired. Because the men of the ship were “given” unto Paul. There was reason for Paul to appear before Caesar, by God’s decree, but no reason for the rest to make it unless Paul had been in supplication and God displayed his mercy and grace.
2. **v21** Shows us the conditions were such that even though a swift supply of grain was aboard, none ate.
3. **v21** Also tells us that there are consequences for the choices we make. “*Ye should have hearkened unto me.....*” Now they “*...have gained this harm and loss.*”
4. **v22** Who alone can see what is on the horizon? God. Paul says, “*...be of good cheer....*” How in the midst of these terrible circumstances? **v23,24** Because of the promise of the Lord Himself.
5. **v24** We find the repetition of the commandment, “*...thou must be brought before Caesar...*” The additional answer is given here as well “*...and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.*” It is here that we see the divine prerogative to grant the request of the child of God.
6. **v25** Paul says, “*Wherefore...*” Christians have the blessedness of making wherefore statements, because of the promises of God. Paul **reckons** on the promises of God. He counts them as true. We also should reckon on the Word of God. “*...even as it was told me.*”
7. **v26** However, because of the choices that were made they would be shipwreck. Our course may sometimes not be what it could have been because of the choices we make. Here they must be cast upon this island. Would there be good that comes from this? Yes.
8. **Let us praise God for the work He accomplishes in spite of ourselves.**

E. No Control v27-29

1. **v27** Shows undoubtedly, they had no control.
2. Fourteen nights had come and gone and now they believe themselves to be near some country.
3. As we look at the map, we realize how far they had actually come.
4. **v28** They were approaching shallow waters. (20 Fathoms – 120 feet, 15 Fathoms – 90 feet. 1 Fathom = 6 feet)
5. **v29** Their design was to stop the forward progress in hopes of trying to see land.

F. Followers of Who? v30-36

1. **v30** The shipmen attempt to flee. An “Every man for himself” kind of tactic. They were leaving under the pretense or “colour” of anchoring now the front part of the ship. The word “colour” gives the idea of a cloak or covering.
2. **v31** And now the test. Remember the man of God had spoken and no one listened. Now Paul would deliver a message from the Lord and the people would have to make a choice. It is so today with you and I. We must make a choice to trust the Word of God or go out on our own. *“...Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.”*
3. Our Lord Jesus Christ said, *“Except a man be born of **water** and of **the Spirit**, he **cannot** enter into the kingdom of God.”* **John 3:5**
4. **v32** We find they listen. Paul’s creditability having been attested to. **Herein is an important principle for the Christian.** We must ensure we are upholding the testimony of Jesus Christ in our lives if people will give us ear. Had Paul been lying or betraying the trust of all around him, they may not have given credence to his word.
5. **v33,34** After the first day they had not taken food. Now Paul compels them to take care of their temporal needs for their health and strength. He assures them once again of their safety. There is assurance that comes from communicating the Word of God to the hearers of that Word.
6. **v35** Paul properly prays before they eat. Again, a testimony to the Lord.
7. **v36** It seems strange this occurrence, but having received the testimony of God they are of good cheer. It is amazing that people do not realize what they are missing. *“Then were they all of good cheer...”*

IV. Shipwreck and Safety v37-44

A. They committed themselves 37-40

1. The number aboard the ship is given to us, 276 people.
2. **v38** They again lightened the ship.
3. **v39** They see the light of day and spy a *“certain creek with a shore....”* The idea would be to thrust the ship into safety.
4. **v40** They *“committed themselves unto the sea...”*

B. They counsel to kill 41,42

1. **v41** Apparently, they were able to move forward for they *“ran the ship aground...”* It was a place where two seas met and the ship broke in two.
2. **v42** The original counsel was to kill the prisoners. This would have included Paul, of which they were apparently about to do.

C. The centurions command 43,44

1. **v43** We find Paul had made such an impact on the Centurion, that he reversed the order. Notice, *“willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose.;...”*
2. **v44** By God’s will they *“escaped all safe to land.”*