

Shipwrecked

Acts 27

by Don Falkos

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Paul and a large number of other prisoners were put into the care of a centurion who was to take them to Rome. They sailed out of Caesarea on the Sea. The weather was against them, slowing their journey considerably. After many difficulties, they came to a port on the southern coast of the island of Crete. It was small and unsuitable for such a large vessel.

Paul warned, "We should stay here. If we leave this port, the ship and its cargo will be lost; and some of us might die."

They left the port. Suddenly a wind of hurricane force swept down on them from the land driving them out to sea. They shortened sail and lowered the sea anchor in a vain attempt to check their mad flight across the churning waters. They dumped the cargo overboard. They threw the ship's tackle into the sea. Nothing they did slowed them down. They couldn't see the stars at night or even the sun during the day, and they all believed they were going to die.

But Paul said, "Don't be afraid. God says the ship will be destroyed; but we will all survive."

For fourteen days the ship was violently tossed about by the storm. Then at daybreak, the sailors saw, through the still raging storm, a bay with a sandy beach. They hoisted a sail and tried to run the ship aground, but it struck a sandbar and was stuck fast. The ship immediately began to break up under the pounding of the waves.

The centurion ordered everyone to abandon ship. Some swam, others held on to pieces of wreckage, but just as Paul had said, all of them made it safely to shore. They were on the island of Malta.