

THE LIFE OF PAUL

LESSON XIII

PAUL GOES TO ROME PART I (Caesarea to Melita)

1. Who was going to Italy with Paul? Acts 27:1-2 (**Acts 27:1-2 - And when it was decided that we should sail to Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to one named Julius, a centurion of the Augustan Regiment. So, entering a ship of Adramyttium, we put to sea, meaning to sail along the coasts of Asia. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, was with us.**) Note the 3rd person pronoun used by Luke. Luke was also present.
2. Where was the ship from that the party boarded? **So, entering a ship of Adramyttium, we put to sea, meaning to sail along the coasts of Asia.**
3. Note that Aristarchus was with Paul on his third missionary journey in Ephesus (Acts 19:29; 20:4). He most likely had traveled with Paul from Macedonia on Paul's second missionary journey. (**Acts 19:29 - So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul's travel companions.**) (**Acts 20:4 - And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia-- also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.**)
4. What is the destination of the ship? Acts 27:2 **Probably Adramyttium (a seaport in Mysia), since that city from which the ship originated, was on the Asian coast.**
5. Assuming that Paul reached Jerusalem for the Pentecost in AD 58 at the conclusion of his third journey, what year must it be that Paul is setting sail for Rome? Acts 24:27 (**Acts 24:27 - But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound.**) It is probably AD 60, since Paul was in prison for two years, because of Felix's indecision and corrupted idea of getting money from Paul.
6. What time of the year must it be that the trip is being made? Acts 27:9-10; Lev. 16:29 (**Acts 27:9-10 - Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, saying, "Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives."**) (Lev 16:29 - "This shall be a statute forever for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether a native of your own country or a stranger who dwells among you.") The Mediterranean's most dangerous season is from mid September through mid November, with storms possible up to and through March. The fast would have been the day of atonement occurring on the 10th of Tisri (7th Hebrew month). Tisri is during September - October of the Roman calendar. To fast meant to deprive and not necessarily complete abstinence of food. Often times sackcloth, ashes on their heads and barefoot accompanied the fast, thus the "afflicting of the soul". This would place the time between October through mid March.
7. Where did the ship first touch the coast after leaving Caesarea? Acts 27:3 (**Acts 27:3 - And the next day we landed at Sidon. And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him liberty to go to his friends and receive care.**) Sidon is about 67 miles from Caesarea.

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8. How much freedom was Paul given, while on the voyage? Acts 27:3 **Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him liberty to go to his friends and receive care.**
9. Where is the next stop and what route did they take in order to reach this seaport? Acts 27:4-5 **(Acts 27:4-5 - When we had put to sea from there, we sailed under the shelter of Cyprus, because the winds were contrary. And when we had sailed over the sea which is off Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, a city of Lycia.)**
The ship sailed to the north of Cyprus, using the Island as a shield against the winds, and past Cilicia and Pamphylia to Myra of Lycia.
10. The centurion, Julius, took another ship from Myra. Where was the ship from and what was it's destination? Locate the home port of this ship on your maps. Acts 27:6 **(Acts 27:6 - There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing to Italy, and he put us on board.)**
11. How large was this ship? Acts 27:37 **(Acts 27:37 - And in all we were two hundred and seventy-six persons on the ship.) The ship was of good size carrying 276 people plus cargo.**
12. How were the sailing conditions upon leaving Myra and what was the next stop? Acts 27:7 **(Acts 27:7 - When we had sailed slowly many days, and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus (Nye-dus), the wind not permitting us to proceed, we sailed under the shelter of Crete off Salmone.)**
13. What is the next stop and by what route do they reach this harbor? Acts 27:7-8 **(Acts 27:7-8 - When we had sailed slowly many days, and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, the wind not permitting us to proceed, we sailed under the shelter of Crete off Salmone (a high cliff of Crete). Passing it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near the city of Lasea.)**
14. What is the meaning of verse 9, where it says "much time was spent"? **(Acts 27:9 - Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them,) In other words they had to wait or waste much time in Fair Havens.**
15. What recommendations did Paul make to the ship's captain and to Julius? Acts 27:10 **(Acts 27: 10 - Paul advised them, saying, "Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives.")**
16. How could Paul have known these things? Did he have revelation from God? I think he did.
17. What was the decision of the centurion and why? Acts 27:11-12 **(Acts 27:11-12 - Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul. And because the harbor was not suitable to winter in, the majority advised to set sail from there also, if by any means they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete opening toward the southwest and northwest, and winter there.)**
18. When did they set sail and what happened? Acts 27:13-21 **(Acts 27:13-21 - When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their desire, putting out to sea, they sailed close by Crete. But not long after, a tempestuous head wind arose, called Euroclydon (you-ROCK-lih-don, a fierce tempestuous east wind. Sometime of hurricane or typhoon force.). So when the ship was caught, and could not head into the wind, we let her drive. And running under the shelter of an island called Claustra (a small island about 50 miles off the southwest of Crete), we secured the skiff (a small life boat pulled behind the ship) with**

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difficulty. When they had taken it on board, they used cables to undergird the ship; and fearing lest they should run aground on the Syrtis Sands (sand banks on the north shore of Africa), they struck sail and so were driven. And because we were exceedingly tempest-tossed, the next day they lightened the ship. On the third day we threw the ship's tackle overboard with our own hands. Now when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest beat on us, all hope that we would be saved was finally given up. But after long abstinence from food, then Paul stood in the midst of them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss.)

- a) Why did they put up or strike their sail 27:17 read several translations)? Some translations say lowered their anchor. They put up their sail and perhaps let their anchor drag because they feared that they were going to be grounded in the sands bars off the African coast.
 - b) Read 27:21 (several translations). What did the phrase "after long abstinence" mean? They hadn't eaten for a long time because of sea sickness.
19. With all hope of being saved gone, what did Paul do? Acts 27:21-26 (**Acts 27:21-26 - But after long abstinence from food, then Paul stood in the midst of them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss. "And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. "For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, "saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.' "Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. "However, we must run aground on a certain island."**) Paul encouraged everyone to have hope.
20. Why was Paul to be saved? **Paul; you must be brought before Caesar.**
21. What had to happen before they could be saved? Acts 27:26 **we must run aground on a certain island.**
22. What did the crew sense on the fourteenth night? Acts 27:27 (**Acts 27:27- Now when the fourteenth night had come, as we were driven up and down in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors sensed that they were drawing near some land.**) The crew probably heard the sound of water breaking as the ocean depth became less.
23. What was the Adria (read several translations)? Acts 27:27 This would be the Adriatic Sea, which is the Mediterranean between Greece, Italy and Africa.
24. What did the ship's crew do when they thought they were near land? Acts 27:28-29 (**Acts 27:28-29 - They took soundings and found that the water was a hundred and twenty feet deep. A short time later they took soundings again and found it was ninety feet deep. Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight.**)
25. Why do you think that they cast anchors off the stern rather than the bow? Acts 27:29 (**Acts 27:29 - Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight.**) This was probably due to the unknown. If they had dropped an anchor off the bow, they could have pivoted around the anchor towards the shore onto a reef.

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26. What plan was the crew carrying out? Acts 27:30 (**Acts 27:30 - In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow.**)
27. What did Paul tell the centurion and the soldiers (probably by revelation)? What was the result of Paul's conversation? Acts 27:31-32 (**Acts 27:31-32 - Then Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved." So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it fall away.**)
28. What does Paul encourage everyone to do? Acts 27:33-36 (**Acts 27:33-36 - 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. 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." 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.**
They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves.)
29. The next day they threw the wheat into the sea and raised their sails to head for shore. What happened when they did this? Acts 27:38-41 (**Acts 27:38-41 - When they had eaten as much as they wanted, they lightened the ship by throwing the grain into the sea. When daylight came, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could. Cutting loose the anchors, they left them in the sea and at the same time untied the ropes that held the rudders. Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the beach. But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf.**)
30. What were the soldiers about to do? What prevents them? Acts 27:42-43 (**Acts 27:42-43 - The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent any of them from swimming away and escaping. 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.**)
31. How many lives were lost? Acts 27:44 (**Acts 27:44 - The rest were to get there on planks or on pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land in safety.**)
There were no lives lost.