

Acts 27

The God of Storms – Life lessons from the storm

NOTES

Acts 27:1-44

Paul is sent to Rome (*by way of a ship from Alexandria, Egypt*)

1. Paul was delivered to a Roman centurion for travel by ship to Rome.
2. God's man warned of great peril while the majority spoke of peace and safety.
3. When the south wind blew softly, the worldly rebels assumed they were right.
4. God brought a tempestuous wind in a moment of time called Euroclydon.
5. There was no human ability to control the ship in the midst of the storm.
6. When all hope was taken away, it was time for a message of hope in God.
7. After fourteen nights, the hopeless shipmen tried to escape their own way.
8. Paul warned the centurion, "Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved."
9. God's promise of protection and safety allowed Paul to be thankful in the most challenging part of the storm – the fourteenth night!
10. God was faithful as promised – the ship was broken; the people were saved.

Personal Applications

1. What did God speak to you about tonight? What does He want you to do differently beginning now?
2. Have you taken ownership of the Gospel ministry personally? Are you ready to advance the Gospel?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History: "Church attendance is as vital to a disciple as a transfusion of rich, healthy blood to a sick man."

– D.L. Moody (1837-1899; American Christian preacher and founder of Moody Bible Institute)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 27:1-12 – Paul is sent to Rome (by way of a ship from Alexandria, Egypt)

Title of Today's Message: Peril or Peace – You had better be listening to the right voices!

PREACHING NOTES

1. Paul was delivered to a **Roman centurion** for travel by ship to **ROME**. 27:1-8

- ✓ **God's will prevails** above man's circumstances – **thy will be done...**
Acts 19:21; 23:11; 25:12, 15; Genesis 50:20; Psalm 33:11; Proverbs 19:21; Daniel 4:35; Romans 15:22
- ✓ Aristarchus (of Thessalonica) joins the small missionary team...
Acts 20:4; Colossians 4:10 ("my fellowprisoner"); Philemon 1:24 ("my fellowlabourers")
- ✓ The **Roman** centurion found a ship of **Alexandria, Egypt** sailing into Italy (**Rome**)...
Acts 6:9 (accusing God's man); 18:24 (false teaching); 27:6; 28:11 (connection is Alexandria to Rome)

NOTE At long last, Paul is headed for Rome! Although it was his desire for many years to preach the gospel there, who would have thought that God would have so many trials and hardships in store for him along the way? Yet, the will of God and the promises of God can be trusted – no matter how we **FEEL** about them! Jesus had promised Paul that he would bear witness of Him at Rome. And, the promises of our Lord are often times the very things that we cling to when going through life's difficulties. Do not miss the connection between the Alexandrian ships and the city of Rome in the book of Acts. God gives us two examples (a.k.a. witnesses) to establish His pattern for us. This connection is very important related to the preservation of God's words in English. The Bible issue is a tale of two cities – Antioch, Syria and Alexandria, Egypt – **Antioch is God's choice!!**

2. God's man warned of **great peril** while **the majority** spoke of **peace** and **SAFETY**. 27:9-12

- ✓ Paul admonished the leaders and **spoke of great peril** to their **STUFF** and their **LIVES**...
2 Timothy 3 and 4; Acts 17:30, 31; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 20:11-15; 2 Kings 6:9, 10; Luke 12:5; 13:1-5; John 3:14-21; 1 Peter 4:18; 2 Peter 3:9; Jude 1:14-25
- ✓ God revealed His secret to Paul who feared Him...
Psalm 25:14; Genesis 41:16-25; 38, 39; Daniel 2:30; Amos 3:7
- ✓ The worldly **majority spoke of peace and safety** – in spite of **the warnings** of God's man...

Jeremiah 5:12 – They have belied the LORD, and said, It is not he; neither shall evil come upon us; neither shall we see the sword nor famine:

Jeremiah 6:14 – They have healed...the hurt...of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

Jeremiah 8:11 – For they have healed the hurt...my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

Jeremiah 14:13 – Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, the prophets say unto them, Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place.

Jeremiah 23:17 They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you.

Ezekiel 13:10 – Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar:

Micah 2:11 – If a man walking in the spirit and falsehood do lie, saying, I will prophesy unto thee of wine and of strong drink; he shall even be the prophet of this people.

2 Timothy 3:1 – This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History: *"Someday you will read in the papers that Moody is dead. Don't you believe a word of it. At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now. I was born of the flesh in 1837, I was born of the Spirit in 1855. That which is born of the flesh may die. That which is born of the Spirit shall live forever."*

-- D.L. Moody (1837-1899; American Christian preacher and founder of Moody Bible Institute)

"For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

-- James (James 4:14)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 27:13-14 – An unexpected storm arises (Part One)

Title of Today's Message: *A moment of time – how quickly our circumstances can change!*

NOTES**PREACHING NOTES****1. When *the south wind blew softly*, the worldly rebels **ASSUMED** they were *right*. 27:13**

- ✓ Although **they did not listen to Paul**, it appeared as though they had **avoided the peril**...
Psalm 10:6; Genesis 19:14; Isaiah 5:18, 19; Jeremiah 5:12, 13; 17:15; Malachi 2:17; Luke 12:45
- ✓ There **is pleasure in sin** for a season...
Hebrews 12:25; Job 20:5; 21:11-15; Isaiah 56:12; Luke 12:19, 20; James 5:5
- ✓ Do not equate **God's longsuffering mercy** with a "*get out of jail free*" card...
Ecclesiastes 8:11; Psalm 50:21, 22; Isaiah 57:11; Jeremiah 48:11; 2 Peter 3:3-10; Jude 1:18
- ✓ Do not assume that **everything will be bliss** forever...
Proverbs 27:1; James 4:13-17

NOTE Oh how we need to hear this message today! There are times in life when we allow the "*south wind*" to lull us to sleep in this world's Vanity Fair and Disney World! In this passage, the centurion and worldly experts are no doubt very pleased with themselves as they feel the warm breeze on their faces and smile mockingly to the heavens – no doubt proud of their rebellion against the God of heaven and earth and His messenger's warning of great peril. They supposed that they had won the argument and were now well on their way to enjoying the corresponding peace and safety for their lives and the lives of those on the ship. If you are here today, you must know that God has us in this passage today for you. If you are not saved today and you are enjoying the "*south wind*" while rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ and everything appears to be bliss in your life, the message for you today is simple – You cannot guarantee another breath or another day. It is time to prepare for eternity. It may start for you before you pillow your head tonight. If you are a believer today, it is time to start numbering your days (Ps 90:12) for the glory of our great God and Saviour. If God is bringing to your mind areas in your life that need to be shored up (sin, disobedience, financial debt, lost family and friends, etc.), today is the day to repent and take action! Prepare for the worst. Make disciples. Pray with your children. Pay off your debts. Forgive those who have wronged you. Prepare the world to meet their maker. Save souls. Be wise. The storm is coming.

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from History:

"The Lord's mercy often rides to the door of our heart upon the black horse of affliction."

— Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892; English Pastor and called "Prince of Preachers")

"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him..."

— Job (Job 13:15)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 27:15-26 – An unexpected storm arises (Part Two)

Title of Today's Message: *Hope for the hopeless – the word of God can be trusted – believe God!*

NOTES

PREACHING NOTES

1. There was **no human ability** to **CONTROL** the ship **in the midst of the storm**. 27:15-20

- ✓ When the ship was **caught** in the storm, they **let her drive**...
Matthew 8:23-27; 14:24; Ephesians 4:14; James 1:6; Galatians 6:1
- ✓ All **human attempts** to remedy the situation were **futile**...
Genesis 3:7; 4:1-7; Jude 1:11 "the way of Cain"; Romans 1:28-32; 1 Corinthians 10:19, 20; Galatians 4:8; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5; 2 Chronicles 16:12 (Asa's disease); Job 13:4; Mark 5:26; Luke 8:43
- ✓ Neither **sun** nor **stars** in **many days** appeared...
Matthew 8:24, 25; 24:29; Mark 13:24; Luke 21:25; Revelation 6:12-14; 8:12; Isaiah 13:1-11; Ezekiel 32:7, 8; Joel 1:10, 31; 3:15; Amos 8:9, 10; Zephaniah 1:15, 16
- ✓ All **hope** that they **should be saved was taken away**...
Ephesians 2:11-13; 1 Thessalonians 4:13

NOTE No matter who you are...or what family you came from...or where you live...or how good your job is...or how much money you have...you will go through a storm like this someday. And woe to them who must go through the storm without Christ and eternal Hope! This life is hard. The storms of this life are often times so difficult that it seems as though we will not escape the worst of it. Sometimes we go through storms when it appears that there is absolutely nothing we can do – everything is out of control! Sometimes we go through storms when it appears as though we are in total darkness – a "fog" for many days, many months, and maybe even many years! Know this, you are not alone. In **1 Cor 10:13**, the Bible says, "*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*" If you are a believer, God will not bring anything into your life that He will not give you the strength and grace to make it through with Him as your Help and Hope. He wants you to cleave to Him during life's most difficult storms. He will be your refuge. If you trust Him, He has a plan to use the storm to bring much glory to His name through your life in the future. Are you willing to trust Him? If you have never trusted Christ for salvation, God just might allow a storm (or storms) into your life to bring you to the point that you will bow down your ear to finally hear Him (**Prov 22:17**). Jesus said in **Luke 5:31 and 32**, "*They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*"

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes: "He's making a list, checking it twice, gonna find out who's naughty or nice, Santa Claus is coming to town. He sees you when you're sleeping. He knows when you're awake. He knows if you've been bad or good, so be good for goodness sake."
 – Santa Claus is Coming to Town (John Frederick Coots and Haven Gillespie; 1934, 30k records in 24 hrs)

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."
 – Solomon (Old Testament; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 27:27-44 – An unexpected storm arises (Part Three)

Title of Today's Message: *The Ship of Salvation – Except you abide in the Ship, ye cannot be saved!*

PREACHING NOTES**1. After *fourteen nights*, the *hopeless shipmen* tried to *escape* their OWN way. 27:27-30**

- ✓ When the *fourteenth night* was come, they cast out 4 anchors and wished for the day...
Ephesians 2:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10
- ✓ In *despair* for their lives, the shipmen were *about to flee the ship* when Paul intervened...
Hebrews 2:15; 9:27; Jude 1:11 "the way of Cain"

NOTE Although the Apostle Paul (God's messenger) had preached a message of **HOPE IN GOD** for all those on the ship, the shipmen were ready to bail and **RISK** their lives doing things **THEIR OWN WAY**. Many people right now (*even in this room*) are taking the same approach to their eternity. God brought *the message* of **HOPE** through the birth of His Son – Jesus Christ – almost 2,000 years ago. It seems like the world is fascinated by the story of the baby in the manger – as long as it stays just that – a story of a baby in a manger. How much thought have you put into your eternity? You will live forever somewhere. It is a long time to be wrong...

Personal Application:

What is your strategy related to Heaven? (Only check 1 box)

- ☐ Heaven strategy #1: "I hope I go to heaven when I die. I hope my good outweighs my bad."
- ☐ Heaven strategy #2: "My Hope for heaven is the resurrected God-man, the Lord Jesus Christ."

What is your strategy to avoid God's eternal prison – hell? (Only check 1 box)

- ☐ Hell strategy #1: "I have heard about God's Judgment and hell – I will be ok on my own."
- ☐ Hell strategy #2: "I heard of God's Judgment and hell, and I ran to the Saviour. His way!"

2. Paul *warned the centurion*, "Except these abide *in* the ship, ye CANNOT be saved." 27:31-44

- ✓ Paul *warned the centurion* and the soldiers that **EVERYONE** must be IN the ship to be saved...

Personal Application:

❖ Consider how Noah and **the ark** (a.k.a. *ship*) compare to Jesus and God's eternal salvation...

Hebrews 11:7 – By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

1 Peter 3:20 – Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is eight souls were saved by water.

Genesis 7:1 – And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

Genesis 7:5, 7 – And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him. And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood.

Genesis 7:16 – And they all went in ... as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.

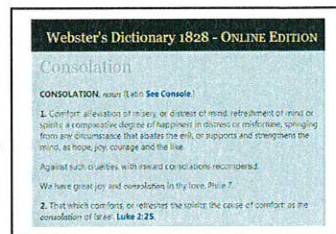
Jesus is *like* the ark.
He is our only hope
to escape God's
eternal judgment.

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quote: "Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

—The Apostle Paul (Hebrews 6:17-20; Apostle to the Gentiles; Chief of sinners)



Scriptures for Today: Acts 27:33-44 – An unexpected storm arises (Part Four)

Title of Today's Message: A Strong Consolation on the 14th night – Trusting God for the salvation of SOULS!

PREACHING NOTES

1. God's **promise** of **protection** and **safety** allowed Paul to be **THANKFUL** in the **most challenging** part of the storm – **the fourteenth night**. 27:33-38

- ✓ Paul was **looking for God to help** – And while **THE DAY** was coming on Genesis 8:8-12; Matthew 10:27 ("With men it is impossible, but not with God"); Titus 2:13 ("Looking for that blessed hope"); Hebrews 12:2 ("Looking unto Jesus"); 2 Peter 3:12 ("Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God"); Jude 21 ("looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life")
- ✓ Paul **reminded others of God's word** – There shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you John 3:3 ("Except a man be born again"); 10:29 ("no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand"); Romans 8:15 ("the Spirit of adoption"); Galatians 4:5 ("adoption of sons"); Ephesians 1:13 ("ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise"); 1 John 5:11-12 ("He that hath the Son hath life")
- ✓ Paul was **thankful to God in public** – And gave thanks to God in presence of them all Matthew 15:36 ("and gave thanks"); Romans 14:6 ("for he giveth God thanks"); Psalm 119:46 ("I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed"); Romans 1:16 ("For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ"); 2 Timothy 1:8 ("Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord")
- ✓ Paul **caused others to trust God** – Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some Psalm 27:14 ("Wait on the LORD: be of good courage"); Isaiah 35:3 ("Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees"); 2 Corinthians 1:4 ("Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble"); 3:2 ("Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men")

NOTE It cannot be stressed enough how important it is to be **THANKFUL** to God in the midst of the storms – even on the fourteenth day!! Paul was able to see things that others were not able to see. He was able to **TRUST** and **OBEY** the God of heaven and earth **because he knew Him personally!** Paul trusted the promises of God and the word of God more than his own thinking and emotions. Paul realized that he was **NOT** on the ship in the midst of the storm for himself but for **OTHERS** that they might know God and be saved also!! Oh how this is **an important step** in our Christian life and walk with God to get to **this perspective** and **way of thinking**. The Christian life is about **OTHERS**. We must begin to see things in this way. We must set our lives to always see things this way. When we do, **God will be able to use us** in ways that we never thought possible. God will use the storms of **OUR** lives to save the souls of others for all eternity.

Personal Application:

- ❖ What would you do if God came to **your house** today and asked you to set aside all the blessings of this life (health, money, stuff) to the end that **1** of your unbelieving family members might be saved for all eternity? What if it was so that **1** unbelieving friend might be saved? How about **1** unbelieving doctor or **1** unbelieving nurse? How about **1** unbelieving stranger who might overhear **the story of your storm** while going through a storm of his own?