

Bible Study 11-06-2024

"Let Her Drive"

KJV Acts 27:1,2, 9-11, 13-15

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God intended for the Gospel to be shared, given out and lived so others might know what He has done for us. God inspired Luke, a Gentile physician, to write the Gospel of Luke as well as its sequel, the Book of Acts. The Book of Acts gives an accurate account of the birth and growth of the Christian church. The Great Commission has been given. KJV **2 Timothy 3:1** *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*

As the account unfolds, for over two years Paul was a prisoner with no official charges against him. He was held captive for defending the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He was brought before the Governor Festus who wanted to impress the Jewish leaders and King Agrippa, who allowed Paul to speak freely. **Acts 9:15** reminds us: The Lord had promised Paul he would bear witness before "Gentiles and kings", and that promise was being fulfilled again. Both Agrippa and Festus declared that Paul was innocent of any crime deserving of death.

1-2 *And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto one named Julius, and a centurion of Augustus' band. **And** entering into a ship of Adramyttium, we launched, meaning to sail by the coasts of Asia; one Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, being with us.* Paul is now enroute to Rome for a hearing with the emperor, for which he had appealed (Acts 25:12; 26:32). Paul is one of 276 prisoners under guard on this sailing vessel for delivery to Rome. Traveling by sea in the ancient world was very dangerous. **2** Corinthians 11:25 Paul reported that he had been shipwrecked three times. Julius is a military commander and member of a distinguished organization under the rule of the famous emperor Caesar Augustus. The word "we" reveals to us that Luke accompanied Paul on this journey which starts in Caesarea (Acts 25:13), on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Paul is accompanied by friends. Aristarchus is likely one of Paul's converts from his preaching in Thessalonica.

KJV Acts 23:11 The Lord stood by him and said: "*Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome*".

Note: When our faith costs us, we are rich. When our faith makes us a prisoner, we are most free. Our freedom is in Christ alone.

9-11 *Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now already past, Paul admonished them, **and** said unto them, *Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives. **Nevertheless** the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul.**

Winter is approaching as the ship reaches Crete. Paul warns the centurion and the ship's master and owner that they will face loss of the ship and the lives it carries if they sail farther. But the majority ruled by a vote. They were less concerned with a warning from a mere prisoner than with getting to a suitable harbor for winter. The captain decided to take one more short journey to another port in Crete. **NIV Proverbs 21:1,2** *In the Lord's hand the king's heart is a stream of water that he channels toward all who please him. A person may think their own ways are right, but the Lord weighs the heart.* **3** *To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.*

13-15 *And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, loosing thence (weighing anchor), they sailed close by Crete. **But not long after** there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon. **And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive.** Quickly the ship is taken up in a violent storm. Driven by ferocious winds for **14 days**, the crew takes desperate measures but still despairs of surviving. **In the midst of this crisis**, Paul offers a message of assurance: "God has sent an angel to him, reminding him of God's promise that Paul will reach Rome". An added promise is that none on the ship will be harmed, although they will run aground. God protects us through our storms, not from them. 2 Corinthians 4:8-10 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, yet not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.*

Song: I've Decided to Make Jesus My Choice"