

## Bible Study May 11, 2022

### Acts 27

### Paul Sails for Rome

Paul travels to Rome by sea in the fall of AD 59. Luke is with Paul, also with other prisoners under the command of a centurion named Julius from the Augustan Cohort. The Adramyttium was a small coastal vessel, not suitable for the open sea. They sailed under the protection of the island of Cyprus, as the winds were against them. The centurion placed them on a larger vessel from Alexandria which was sailing for Italy. Paul appealed to the captain and to the centurion to stay in the port of Fair havens, as the Day of Atonement had passed, which was indicated the storms of late fall and winter were upon them. The port was not suitable to a majority of the crew, so they set sail for Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, in order to spend the winter there.

The winds were favorable at first, but then became tempestuous, from typhonikos (typhoon) and eurakylon (east wind) which is called a northeaster, a very dangerous storm. They could not head into the wind, and were driven by the wind, having to drop a storm anchor, or the topsails, to slow the boat's progress. They also tied ropes under and over the ship. They were afraid they run aground at Syrtis, a sand bar off the North African coast, known as a graveyard of ships, much like our Cape Hatteras. They could not see the sun or the stars because of the storm, and they began to jettison their cargo in hopes of lightening the load of the ship.

They were without food, and Paul stood up to get their attention: "You should have listened to me." Paul described his vision of seeing an angel of the Lord, who told him the ship would be lost, but no lives would be lost, as he was to stand before Caesar. The sailors were about to escape using the ship's boat, but Paul warned the centurion that if the men were to live, they must stay aboard the ship. They cut the ropes to the small boat and let it go.

They had been in the storm for 14 days, so Paul instructed them to eat something, and afterwards threw the rest of the cargo overboard. They saw land, and steered the ship towards a bay with a beach. They hit a sandbar, or reef, and the ship began to break up. Some thought the prisoners should be killed, as there was danger of some escaping. The centurion, wishing to save Paul, stopped their plan. They all made it safely to land.

Next week – Ashore on Malta and on to Rome