

RELEARNING ANCIENT BIBLE STORIES IN A BRAND-NEW WAY

EPIC TALES

TOO



- Childhood of Jesus, visits Temple at age 12
- Jesus baptized and tempted in the wilderness
- First miracle of Jesus at wedding feast
- Jesus feeds fifteen thousand people
- Jesus walks on water
- Transfiguration of Jesus
- The Holy Spirit is sent to the disciples
- Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead
- Jesus washes the disciples' feet
- Jesus restores Peter
- Resurrection and Great Commission
- Death of Ananias and Sapphira
- The stoning of Stephen
- Peter's escape from prison
- The Jerusalem Council
- Paul and Silas in prison
- Paul preaches in Athens
- **Paul survives a shipwreck**

RELEARNING ANCIENT BIBLE STORIES IN A BRAND-NEW WAY

EPIC TALES TOO



World of the New Testament, Around A.D. 50



Apostle Paul Travel Log

1. Acts 15 –
Jerusalem

2. Acts 16 –
Philippi

3. Acts 17 –
Thessalonica
then to
Athens

4. Acts 27 –
Caesarea

Acts 27-28



When it was decided that we [Luke, author of Acts, is on the journey] would sail for Italy, they proceeded to deliver Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan cohort named Julius. And embarking in an Adramyttian ship, which was about to sail to the regions along the coast of Asia, we put out to sea accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica. The next day we put in at Sidon; and **Julius treated Paul with consideration and allowed him to go to his friends and receive care**. From there we put out to sea and sailed under the shelter of Cyprus because the winds were contrary [prevailing winds blew from west to east]. Acts 27:1-4

* Aristarchus accompanied Paul on the journey to be his helper. Aristarchus stayed with Paul during his Roman incarceration (Colossians 4:10; Philemon 24).



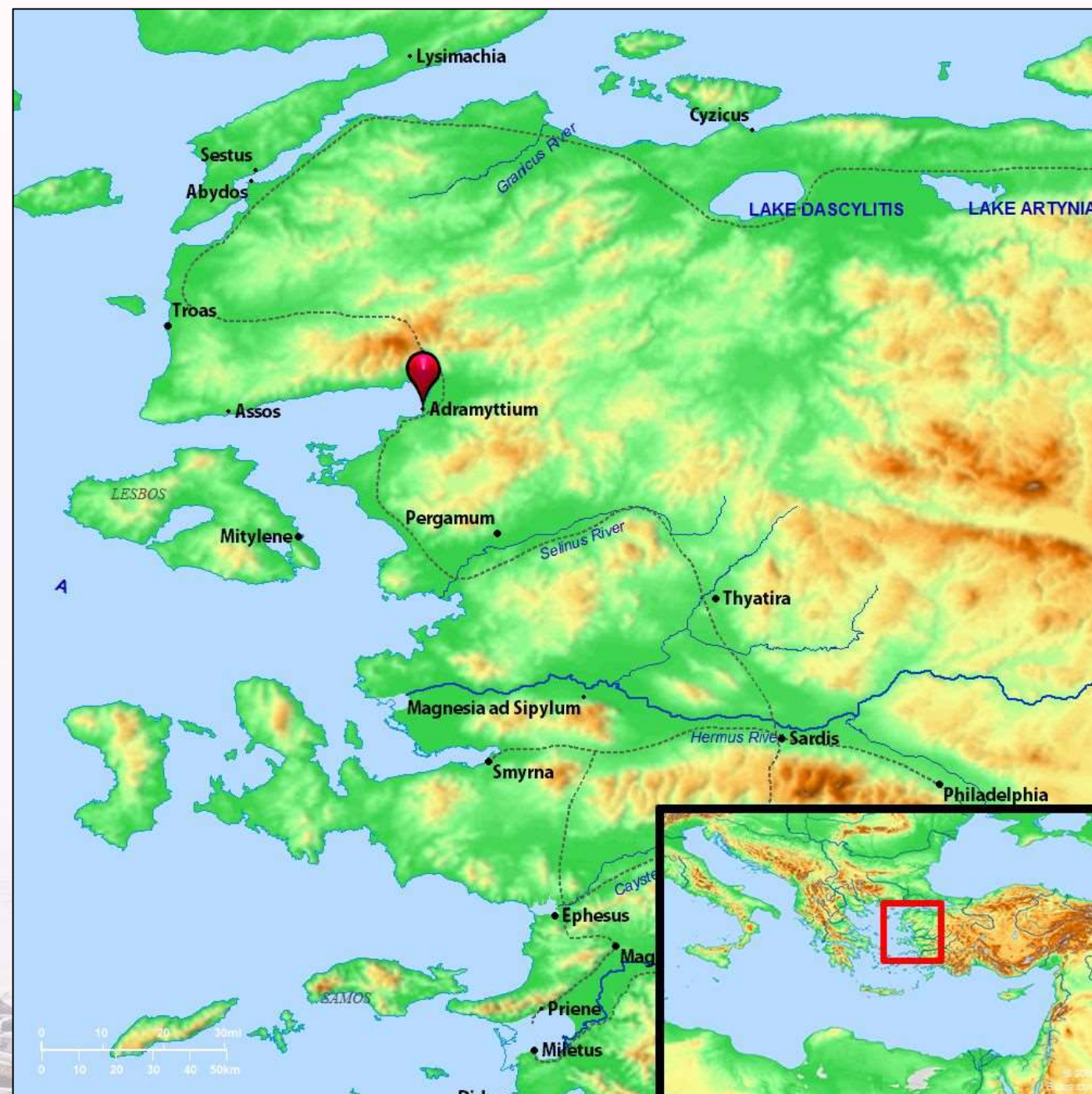
Paul's Voyage to Rome

Acts 27-28, Sep 59-Feb 60 AD

**“embarking in an Adramyttian ship, which was about to sail to the regions along the coast of Asia, we put out to sea”
Acts 27:2**

Adramyttium, the home base of the ship, was east-southeast of Troas in northwest Asia Minor (modern Turkey). Evidently the ship was making its last journey to its base before the stormy winter sailing season set in. In those days sea traffic ceased by early November.

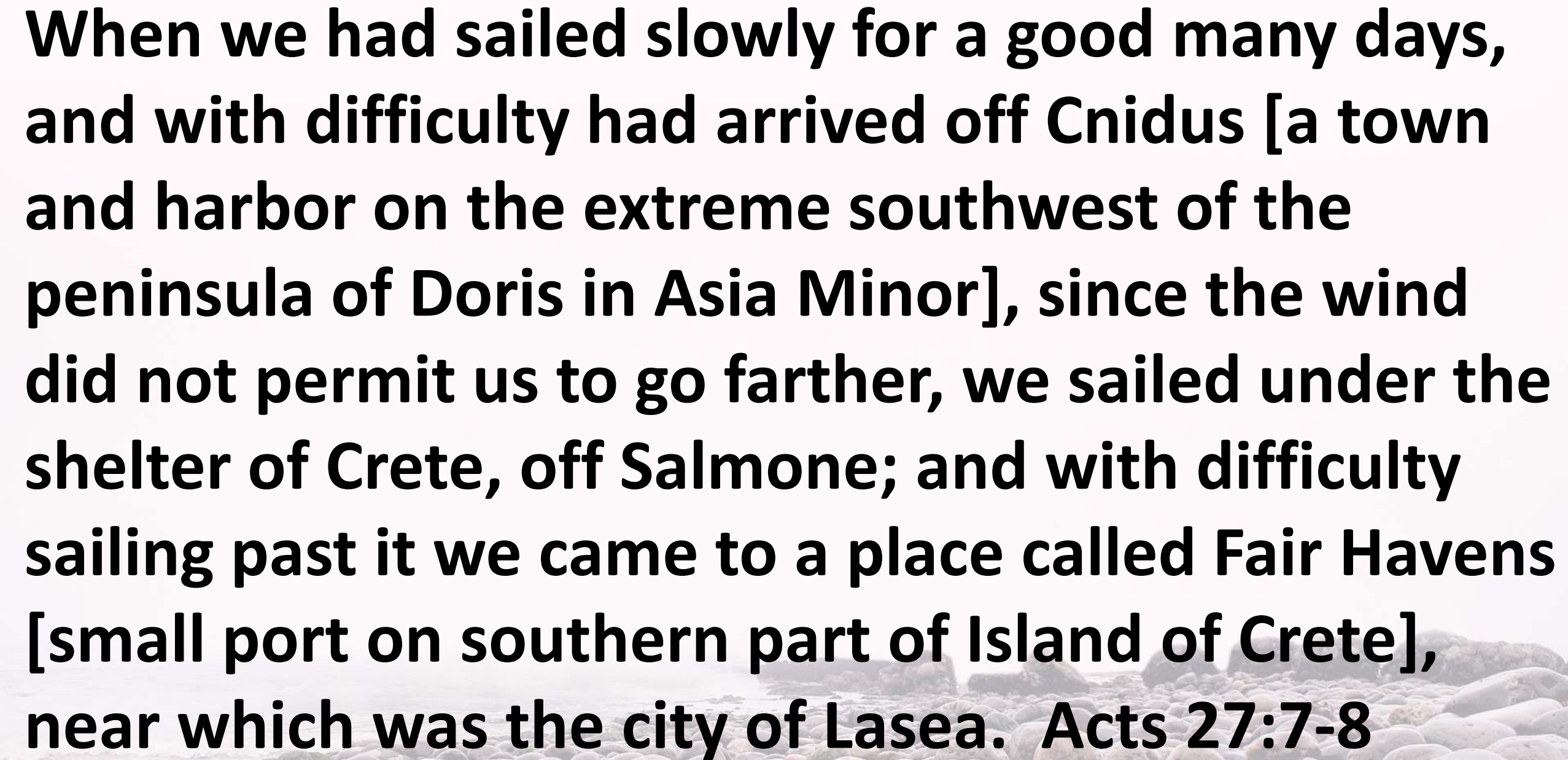
– Bible Knowledge Commentary



When we had sailed through the [northeastern Mediterranean] sea along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra [a port city] in Lycia [southern part of modern Turkey]. There the centurion [Julius] found an Alexandrian [grain] ship sailing for Italy, and he put us aboard it. Acts 27:5-6

***Myra was a common stopping point for grain ships headed from Egypt to Rome. – Holman Concise Bible Commentary**

When we had sailed slowly for a good many days, and with difficulty had arrived off Cnidus [a town and harbor on the extreme southwest of the peninsula of Doris in Asia Minor], since the wind did not permit us to go farther, we sailed under the shelter of Crete, off Salmone; and with difficulty sailing past it we came to a place called Fair Havens [small port on southern part of Island of Crete], near which was the city of Lasea. Acts 27:7-8





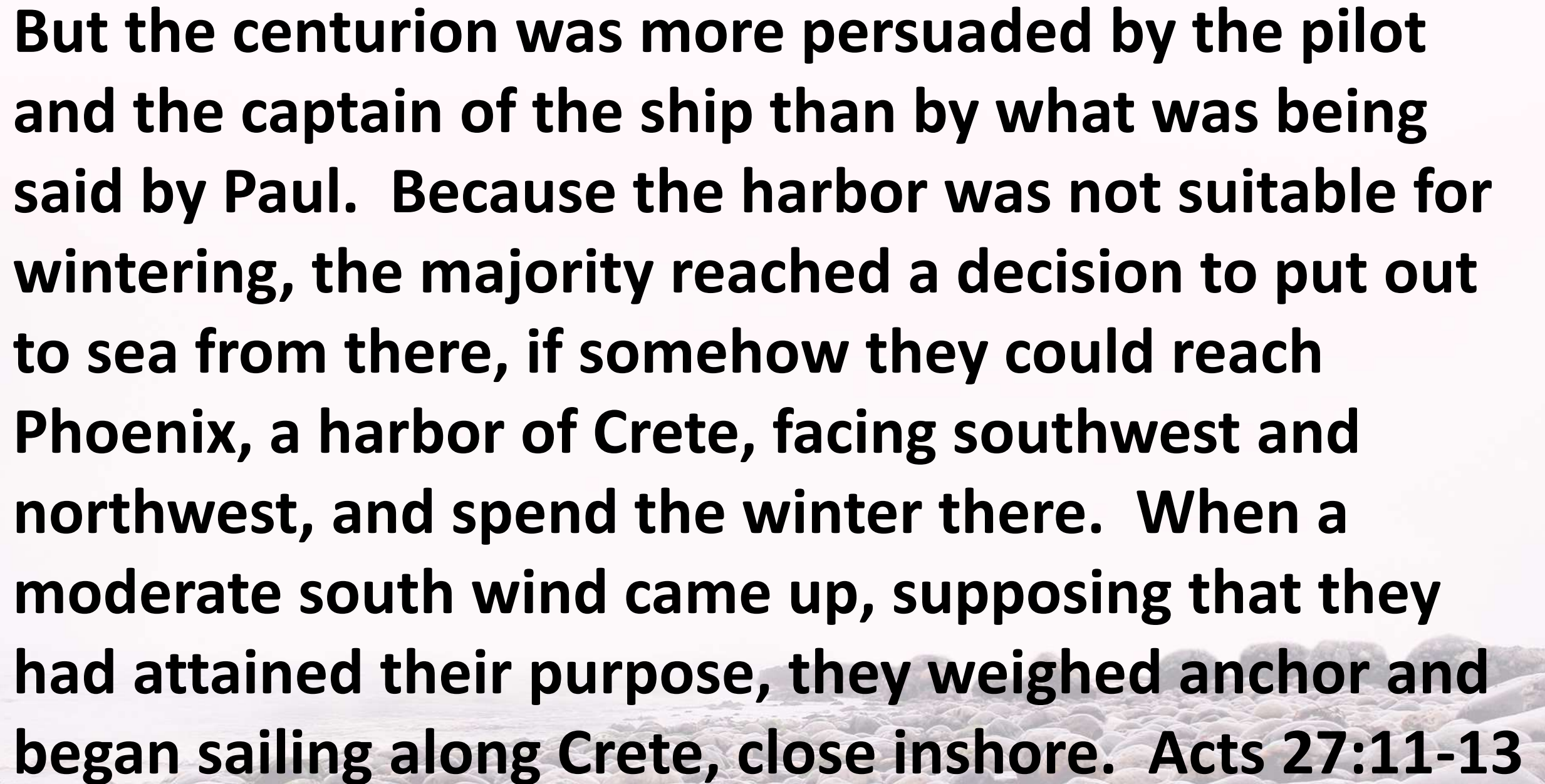
Paul's Voyage to Rome

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When considerable time had passed and the voyage was now dangerous, since even the fast was already over [Yom Kippur in September or October... Apostle Paul was also Rabbi Saul who kept the biblical holidays even as a follower of Jesus], Paul began to admonish them, and said to them, “Men, I perceive that the voyage will certainly be with damage and great loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives.” Acts 27:9-10

***Yom-Kippur can occur between September 14 and October 14**

But the centurion was more persuaded by the pilot and the captain of the ship than by what was being said by Paul. Because the harbor was not suitable for wintering, the majority reached a decision to put out to sea from there, if somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, facing southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there. When a moderate south wind came up, supposing that they had attained their purpose, they weighed anchor and began sailing along Crete, close inshore. Acts 27:11-13





Paul's Voyage to Rome

Acts 27-28, Sep 59-Feb 60 AD

But before very long there rushed down from the land a violent [τυφωνικός *tuphonikos*] wind, called Euraquilo; and when the ship was caught in it and could not face the wind, we gave way to it and let ourselves be driven along. Running under the shelter of a small island called Clauda, we were scarcely able to get the ship's boat under control. After they had hoisted it up, they used supporting cables in undergirding the ship; and fearing that they might run aground on the shallows of Syrtis [off the coast of Libya in North Africa], they let down the sea anchor and in this way let themselves be driven along. Acts 27:14-17

- The various precautions taken, such as using cables to reinforce the ship's hull, lowering the sea anchor, throwing some of the cargo overboard, and later even jettisoning part of the ship's tackle were the correct procedures, and they are given in the probable order of occurrence as the situation became more and more desperate. – New Bible Commentary

Crete in the New Testament



Modern name for the island of Clauda is Gavdos. It is the southernmost Greek island and is considered the southernmost point of Europe. Located roughly 30 miles south of Crete.

The next day as we were being violently storm-tossed, they began to jettison the cargo; and on the third day they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. Since neither sun nor stars appeared for many days [therefore impossible to navigate the ship by the stars], and no small storm was assailing us, from then on all hope of our being saved was gradually abandoned. Acts 27:18-20

When they had gone a long time without food, then Paul stood up in their midst and said, “Men, you ought to have followed my advice and not to have set sail from Crete and incurred this damage and loss. Yet now I urge you to **keep up your courage**, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.’ Therefore, **keep up your courage**, men, **for I believe God** that it will turn out exactly as I have been told. But we must run aground on a certain island.” Acts 27:21-26

Today's faith is built on yesterday's faith

- Paul said on the ship, “Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told.” Acts 27:25
- Paul wrote, “Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.” 2 Corinthians 11:25
- But on the night immediately following, the Lord stood at his [Paul's] side and said, “Take courage; for as you have solemnly witnessed to My cause at Jerusalem, so you must witness at Rome also.” Acts 23:11

But when the fourteenth night came, as we were being driven about in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors began to surmise that they were approaching some land. They took soundings [throwing into the water a line with lead on it] and found it to be twenty fathoms [120 feet deep]; and a little farther on they took another sounding and found it to be fifteen fathoms [90 feet deep]. Fearing that we might run aground somewhere on the rocks, they cast four anchors from the stern and wished [prayed] for daybreak. Acts 27:27-29



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DIGGING HISTORY · Published September 18, 2019 · Last Update September 20, 2019

Biblical shipwreck discovery? Anchor from St. Paul's shipwreck identified, researchers claim

The Bible Archaeology Search and Exploration (BASE) Institute believes that it has identified evidence of the shipwreck, which occurred around 60 AD. On the organization's website, BASE says that four ancient anchors were recovered by local divers, adding that only one of the anchors has been preserved. "The fourth anchor was preserved as part of a deceased diver's legacy to his widow," BASE writes.

Biblical shipwreck of St Paul 'found' as holy ship's anchor unearthed off Malta

BASE Institute have claimed that they identified one of the anchors of St Paul's sunken ship



By [Henry Holloway](#) Chief Reporter
10:51, 15 SEP 2019





Paul's Voyage to Rome

Acts 27-28, Sep 59-Feb 60 AD

But as the sailors were trying to escape from the ship and had let down the ship's [life] boat into the sea, on the pretense of intending to lay out anchors from the bow, Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, "Unless these men remain in the ship, you yourselves cannot be saved." Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship's [life] boat and let it fall away [so the ship's trained sailors would not abandon them]. Acts 27:30-32

Until the day was about to dawn, Paul was encouraging them all to take some food, saying, “Today is the fourteenth day that you have been constantly watching and going without eating, having taken nothing. Therefore I encourage you to take some food, for this is for your preservation, for not a hair from the head of any of you will perish.” Having said this, he took bread and **gave thanks to God** in the presence of all, and he broke it and began to eat. Acts 27:33-35

All of them were encouraged [by Paul's faith in God despite the circumstances] **and they themselves also took food. All of us in the ship were two hundred and seventy-six persons. When they had eaten enough, they began to lighten the ship by throwing out the wheat into the sea.**

Acts 27:35-38

When day came, they could not recognize the land; but they did observe a bay with a beach, and they resolved to drive the ship onto it if they could. And casting off the anchors, they left them in the sea while at the same time they were loosening the ropes of the rudders [oars]; and hoisting the foresail to the wind, they were heading for the beach. But striking a reef [sandbar] where two seas met, they ran the vessel aground; and the prow [the forward-most part of a ship's bow above the waterline] stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern began to be broken up by the force of the waves. Acts 27:39-41

The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, so that none of them would swim away and escape [see Acts 16:27]; but the centurion, wanting to bring Paul safely through, kept them from their intention, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land, and the rest should follow, some on planks, and others on various things from the ship. And so it happened that they all were brought safely to land. Acts 27:42-44

When they had been brought safely through, then we found out that the island was called Malta [60 miles south of Sicily]. The natives [people who did not speak Greek, without any implication about the level of their culture or civilization] showed us extraordinary kindness; for because of the rain that had set in and because of the cold, they kindled a fire and received us all. Acts 28:1-2

***In two weeks the storm had carried them 600 miles west of Fair Havens, Crete. – Bible Knowledge Commentary**



Paul's Voyage to Rome

Acts 27-28, Sep 59-Feb 60 AD



Modern map of Malta

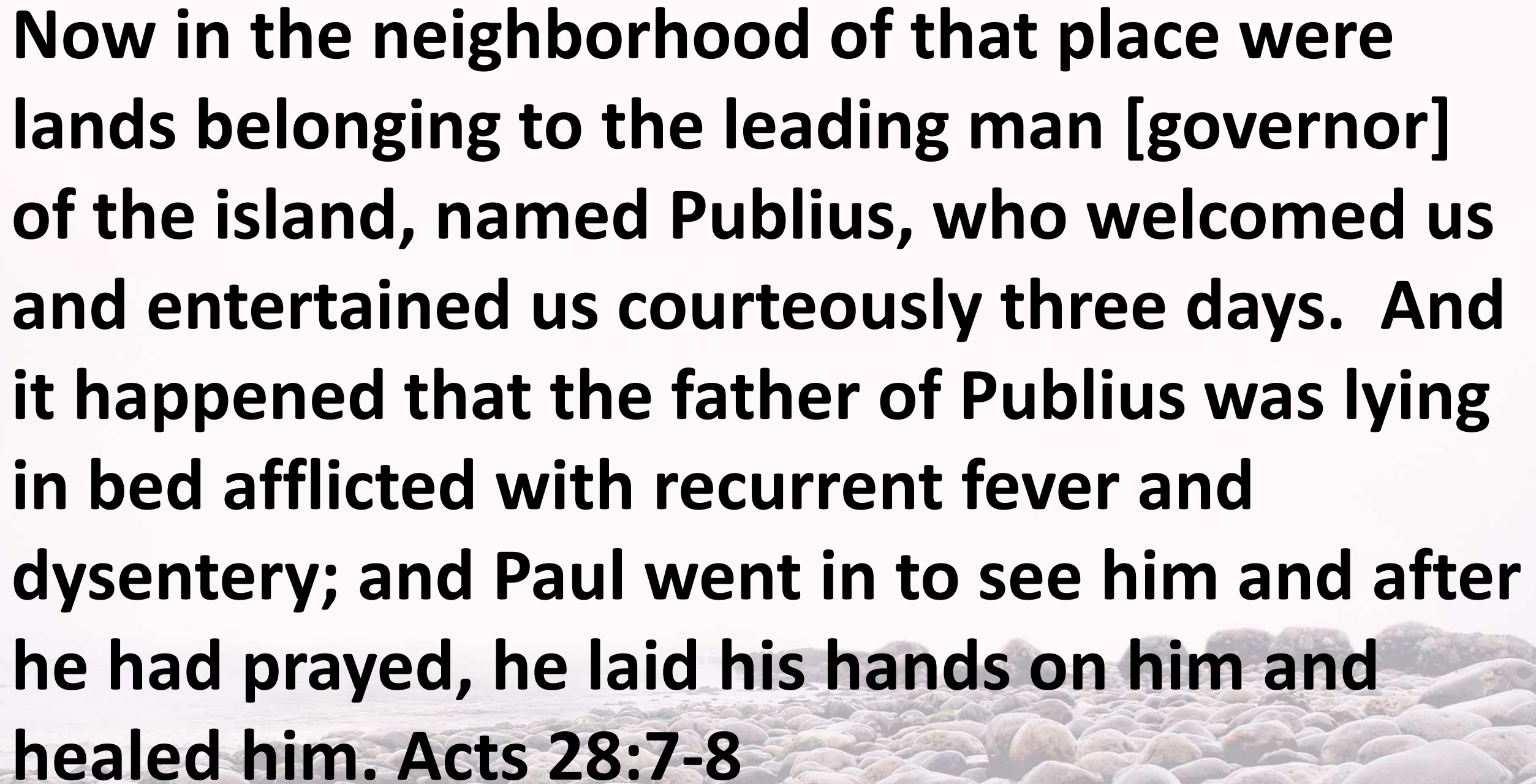
Recent research has shown that there are four Roman harbor/ports: Marsaxlokk, Marsascula, Marsamxett, and Marsa, all able to accommodate large ships on the eastern end of the island. The latter port had facilities for storing grain during the winter and also transshipment (Acts 28:1-11). The Roman harbor in Marsaslokk Bay is located south of the Munxar Reef, and the harbor that was in the inner reaches of the Marsascula Bay is located just to the north of St. Thomas Bay. The southeastern part of the island, between Marsaxlokk Bay and the entrance to the Grand Harbor of Valletta would be the best-known part of the island for any sea captain and seasoned sailors of an Alexandrian grain ship. Any ancient Mediterranean sea captain, or seasoned sailor on the deck of an Alexandrian grain ship anchored off the Munxar Reef, immediately would recognize the southeastern shoreline of Malta because Malta was the landmark for sailors traveling westward from Crete and about to turn north to Sicily. Malta was the “Turn Starboard (Right) to Sicily” sign in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea! The eastern end of the island would be what they saw first and it would be a welcomed and known sight.

<https://www.lifeandland.org/2012/08/why-the-shipwreck-of-paul-was-not-on-the-munxar-reef-on-malta/>

But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand. When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they began saying to one another, “Undoubtedly this man is a murderer, and though he has been saved from the sea, justice has not allowed him to live.” However he shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm. But they were expecting that he was about to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had waited a long time and had seen nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and began to say that he was a god. Acts 28:3-6



Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the leading man [governor] of the island, named Publius, who welcomed us and entertained us courteously three days. And it happened that the father of Publius was lying in bed afflicted with recurrent fever and dysentery; and Paul went in to see him and after he had prayed, he laid his hands on him and healed him. Acts 28:7-8





After this had happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases were coming to him and getting cured. They also honored us with many marks of respect; and when we were setting sail, they supplied us with all we needed. Acts 28:9-10

What happened next?

Paul finally arrives in Rome and awaits trial before Caesar. Paul's imprisonment in Rome during the next two years is surprisingly fruitful, as he writes four of his fourteen epistles (Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians and Philemon). He is ultimately acquitted of all the charges against him and is freed in 63 AD. Paul's fifth and final missionary journey begins when he is set free in Rome. He immediately travels to the island of Crete, then Nicopolis, then makes his promised journey to Spain (Romans 15:24, 28) and likely to Britain. Paul is once again a prisoner in Rome in 67 AD. Tradition states that he is martyred through being beheaded (a method of execution allowed citizens of the Empire) in the spring of 68 AD.

Why would Luke write such a detailed story?

Possibly the writer desired to show a parallel with Jonah and his storm (Jonah 1:4–15). After Jonah lived through the storm by miraculous means he preached to a large Gentile capital city. The comparison with Paul is obvious.

Or, the purpose of this account is to show God's sovereign protection and direction in Paul's ministry. It was God's will for the apostle to minister the gospel in Rome.

What is a shipwreck?

Definition of *shipwreck*

- 1. a wrecked ship or its parts**
- 2. the destruction or loss of a ship**
- 3. an irretrievable loss or failure**



Has your life ever felt like a “shipwreck”?

What causes a shipwreck?

- **Making bad decisions**
- **Ignoring the warning signs**
- **Following bad directions**
- **Facing tough circumstances (storms)**
- **Not listening to good advice**
- **Carrying too much cargo**

How do we respond to a shipwreck?

- **Surprise**
- **Look for quick solutions**
- **Determination to pull through**
- **Resigned to defeat**
- **Blame others**
- **Loss of hope**
- **Paralyzing fear**
- **Expectation of death**

What should followers of Jesus do when life feels like a **shipwreck**?

- **S**top the actions that got you there
- **H**onestly evaluate the situation
- **I**nvestigate your own heart
- **P**ray the promises of God's Word



What should followers of Jesus do when life feels like a shipwreck?

- **W**ork to remove the unhelpful burdens
- **R**ealize other people are watching
- **E**xamine the positive forward options
- **C**all on the Lord in humility
- **K**eep up your courage (Acts 27:22, 25)

How can I face the shipwrecks of life?

- **We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 2 Corinthians 4:8-10**
- **He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be shaken. Psalm 62:6**