

1 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. 2 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.

Under the watch of a Roman Centurion - Julius - Paul is on an all expense paid trip to Rome - He isn't going alone he has **Aristarchus** and Luke (notice the **we** of verse 2 and beyond) with him on the voyage.

Smaller ship - made to travel along the coast, they start to make their way north from Caesarea

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.

The favor Paul enjoyed from Julius meant he was allowed to take these companions with him, as well as receive ministry from the family of God. Paul was not a condemned man either - other prisoners most likely

4 When we had put to sea from there, we sailed under the shelter of Cyprus, because the winds were contrary. 5 And when we had sailed over the sea which is off Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, a city of Lycia. 6 There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing to Italy, and he put us on board.

Alexandria is in Egypt, and Egypt was the breadbasket of the Roman empire - Rome having a million people or more, needed to import wheat from Egypt. Aristarchus, Luke, Paul, Julius, the Romans soldiers and prisoners all board ship on a very large cargo ship. 276 people total

7 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. 8 Passing it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near the city of Lasea. 9 Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over,

Because sailing was slow, the stress levels are rising - it is taking too long, and hurricane season is on the horizon. Plus there is the pressure to get the cargo, man and commodity to Rome - Bread and Circus

The decision on the table is to winter at Fair Havens or set sail and try to reach the port of Phoenicia 40 miles away - much more desirable port

The **Fast** date = Day of Atonement - around October - a bad time of year for a cruise on the Med.

Paul advised them, 10 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."

Advised = advise strongly! Paul, the rabbi/tentmaker, is telling sailors how to sail!

perceive = "to perceive from past experience."

Paul was speaking from years of experience as a traveler. Three missionary journeys - travelled over 3500 miles by sea - He knew the dangers of sailing at that time. He experienced three shipwrecks in the course of his ministry (2 Cor. 11:25).

11 Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul. 12 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.

The name *Fair Havens* was not called Good Haven for a reason - direction of the bay made it vulnerable. It was also not a *fun* place to spend all winter, and the crew of the ship didn't look forward to months in a small town.

Julius being a Roman centurion appeared to have the highest level of authority, and he had the wisdom to seek out guidance from others, what he failed to have was discernment of who to listen to. Owner - money on his mind Helmsmen - pride, people - comfort - Paul - God

Phoenix is only 40 miles away - on the same island - it is a day trip - no problem -

13 When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their desire, putting out to sea, they sailed close by Crete.

Just sit right back and you'll hear a tale
a tale of a fateful trip,
that started from this tropic port,
aboard this tiny ship.
The mate was a mighty sailin' man,
the Skipper brave and sure,
five passengers set sail that day,
for a three hour tour,
a three hour tour.
The weather started getting rough,
the tiny ship was tossed....

14 But not long after, a tempestuous head wind arose, called Euroclydon. 15 So when the ship was caught, and could not head into the wind, we let her drive. 16 And running under the shelter of an island called Clauda, we secured the skiff with difficulty. 17 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, they struck sail and so were driven. 18 And because we were exceedingly tempest-tossed, the next day they lightened the ship. 19 On the third day we threw the ship's tackle overboard with our own hands.

When caught in a storm that has a name that sounds like it should be a dinosaur - northeaster - you are in trouble.

They have lost all control of the ship, and go into survival mode. It's all hands on deck - Dr Luke, Paul, and Aristarchus, find themselves on the ropes hauling in the skiff.

20 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.

No way of knowing where they were, no way of calling for help, no way to gain control of the ship, and the storm is not letting up. All hope - even Paul at this point has lost hope - lost - no reference point - no control - no way out - no end in site - in the midst of the storm = hopelessness

This chapter is HUGE because we live in a broken world, where we can find ourselves in the Euroclydon's of life. Where circumstances are dire, and beyond control, not letting up, hitting hard, no end in sight. God made sure to record this so we could see where hope is to be found when everything seems "hopeless."

Where is Paul the singing prisoner? There is no "I will praise you in this storm" going on right now, even Paul - Where is prayer? Where is the Word?

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! □ For my soul trusts in You; □ And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, □ Until these calamities have passed by. Psalm 57:1

Psa 107:29 He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.

And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. And the men marveled, saying, What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him? Matthew 8:26-27

True Hope, received by Faith in God that He loves you - even when it doesn't feel like He loves us - we are incredibly vulnerable to faithlessness when we find ourselves in a life Euroclydon (Nor' Easter)

If we are faithless, He remains faithful; 2Ti 2:13

21 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. 22 And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.

By this point they are seasick out of their minds - hungry, dehydrated, exhausted emotionally and physically.

Paul this probably isn't the best time for an I told you so moment, yet, he stands up and says - **Men, you should have listened to me**: remember my advice in chapter 10 - we could be in Fair Haven's right not, not the best place in the world, but it sure is a whole lot better than this. Thanks for nothing Paul.

I don't think that is his motive - his motive is to establish some credibility and authority - so they will listen and heed to the prophetic word that he is about to share with them to encourage them and restore hope.

What Paul has to share is not a locker room speech at half-time - He is just a messenger of a word from the Lord, that is true - bad news - the ship isn't going to make it - prepare yourselves for a shipwreck experience - (Been there done that) - not going to be an easy road - but there is a promise - not one of us will die in the wreck - everyone will survive.

23 For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, 24 saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.' 25 Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. 26 However, we must run aground on a certain island."

GOD'S PRESENCE - God sent an angelic messenger to Paul to bring good, encouraging news when all else seemed hopeless.

Isa 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

I don't think this was Paul saying oh ye of little faith, why are you afraid - here is the word from the Lord for you He needed to hear it just as much as everyone else on the ship - in fact it was a very personal word for Paul - Paul you are mine!

1 Corinthians 6:19b-20 You are not your own, 20for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

This would remind Paul, that he is Loved by God Paul you serve me - you are on a mission that I have sent you on - I never fail.

31 But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isa 40:31

Paul was praying - I have granted you all 276 of them - Paul must of prayed they would all be spared.

Paul's faith was revived - presence, provision, protection, promises - He said I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.

BTW - God's plan is that we all run aground on a certain island.

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. 28 And they took soundings and found it to be twenty fathoms; and when they had gone a little farther, they took soundings again and found it to be fifteen fathoms. 29 Then, fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern, and prayed for day to come.

Two weeks into this storm, the sailors most likely sensitive to the sound of crashing waves on rocks, sensed they are near land.

Knowing they are going to shipwreck and live, they still try to regain control - or at least soften the wreck by hitting the beach instead of the rocks. None the less - they prayed!!!

30 And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, when they had let down the skiff into the sea, under pretense of putting out anchors from the prow, 31 Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." 32 Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the skiff and let it fall off.

I think Paul took God at His word - Here's what He told me - the plan is we will experience shipwreck and be saved - if they try and avoid the shipwreck by saving themselves in the skiff, then they are not going to make it. The skiff is not part of God's plan - Pro 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

33 And as day was about to dawn, Paul implored them all to take food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day you have waited and continued without food, and eaten nothing. 34 Therefore I urge you to take nourishment, for this is for your survival, since not a hair will fall from the head of any of you." 35 And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken it he began to eat. 36 Then they were all encouraged, and also took food themselves. 37 And in all we were two hundred and seventy-six persons on the ship. 38 So when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship and threw out the wheat into the sea.

Paul is no longer functioning as prisoner on the ship - He is functioning as the captain of the ship - exercising in word and deed faith in Jesus Christ and trusting a present promise - we are going to survive and your going to need strength for the next leg of this adventure. Thank God, he loves us and died for us, that we might live and let's eat.

Paul's faith encouraged the unbelievers.

They cast the wheat into the sea - metaphorically no longer trust in wealth and riches - Jesus is the bread of life.

39 When it was day, they did not recognize the land; but they observed a bay with a beach, onto which they planned to run the ship if possible. 40 And they let go the anchors and left them in the sea, meanwhile loosing the rudder ropes; and they hoisted the mainsail to the wind and made for shore. 41 But striking a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the violence of the waves.

They did not know it at first, but they came to an island called Malta. The place where the ship came aground is now called St. Paul's Bay.

42 And the soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim away and escape. 43 But the centurion, wanting to save Paul, kept them from their purpose, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land, 44 and the rest, some on boards and some on parts of the ship. And so it was that they all escaped safely to land.

Remember Paul was a prisoner - Thanks for nothing - now they are going to kill him - these prisoners were capital criminals - headed to Rome to die in the colosseum - didn't want these guys running free

God gave Paul favor in the eyes of this Roman **centurion**, and that favor kept Paul and all the prisoners alive – in fulfillment of the word spoken to Paul, *God has granted you all those who sail with you (Acts 27:24)*. God's word never fails.

Paradox of the Storms of Life - God's sovereignty - Human responsibility - question his sovereignty - try to take control - reveals our inability - in the storm - revelation of Jesus - trust in sovereignty restored trust sovereignty - goodness, love, in the midst of suffering - then responsible to follow his plan, give up saving yourself.

Product of the storm - Paul told the people on the ship - not a hair will be lost - Jesus said in Luke 21:16 You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. 17 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. 18 But not a hair of your head shall be lost. 19 By your patience possess your souls.

"... they will put some of you to death. [...] But not a hair of your head will perish." What? Does that mean I'll just look wonderful in my casket?

"But not a hair of your head will perish." That is a way for Jesus to say God has an absolutely detailed, loving plan for your life. Secondly, he's also saying that plan is to bring peace, greatness, love, and salvation to you and through you, and that will entail suffering.

In 2 Corinthians Paul says, "I have been in prison, flogged, five times I received thirty-nine lashes, three times I've been beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times shipwrecked. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, for when I am weak, then I am strong. Though outwardly we are wasting away, inwardly we are being renewed day by day, for our light momentary afflictions are achieving for us an eternal weight of glory that outweighs them all."

The word glory means weight. It means ballast. It means something that lasts, something that can't be blown away. The suffering turns you real. Suffering makes you someone who's not blown about by the circumstances.

Presence in the Storm - Our GOD is with us and He is familiar with suffering and facing the Euraclydon

Jonah rebelled against God's plan -refused to be on God's mission - Euroclydon storm came - the only way to be saved from the storm - was to toss Jonah into it. They tossed him into it, and he was literally swallowed up by it - and the seas were calmed - Jesus is the greater than Jonah - said so Himself -

He was tossed into the wrath of God's judgment -so we would never have to face the suffering he faced. And all the suffering we do encounter in this life, with God can make us people with souls of ballast, and on top of that -

all the suffering one day will be engulfed by a new heaven, new earth, new body, with no more suffering and pain, and you will enjoy it all the more because of the suffering you experienced in this world in this body.

His love in time past forbids me to think
He'll leave me at last in trouble to sink ...
By prayer let me wrestle, and He wilt perform,
With Christ in the vessel, I smile at the storm.