

SHIPWRECKED!

Acts 27

We all face times when things don't appear to be going our way.

Joseph–Egypt => prison (2 years on false charges)

Paul –Jailed on false charges.

Held for two years

Sent to Rome

Storm => shipwreck

Godly contentment doesn't depend on external circumstances!

TESTIMONY TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH 13-28

ROAD TO ROME 21:17-28:31

Even before Paul arrives at Jerusalem it's apparent that this is really a trip to Rome.

The end of the road is in Rome (21:17-28:31).

Though Paul knew arrest was ahead, he went on anyway, confident of God's will.

He witnesses along the way and on his arrival in Rome.

This was the purpose for which God had called him (cf. Acts 9:15-16).

In the midst of it all, Paul knew he was right where God wants him.

Therefore, he is content.

How will WE view hard times?

Paul's witness in Jerusalem 21:17-23:35

He isn't teaching anything that isn't also taught in the Old Testament.

God reveals Himself to Paul and assures him of His protection to enable him to witness in Rome also (23:11).

God's protection is demonstrated when the Jewish leaders plot to kill Paul.

The plan is exposed and Paul taken away by night to Caesarea.

What do the accounts of this phase of the trial indicate concerning the accusations against Paul?

Paul isn't guilty of any crime.

He isn't the one who's fighting God!

Paul's witness in Caesarea 24-26

As the trial progresses, it becomes increasingly evident to all, including neutral Roman officials, that Paul isn't guilty of any crime worthy of punishment.

Yet the opposition continues.

Defense before Felix 24

Felix recognizes he has no basis to punish Paul, yet he prolongs the proceedings to please the Jews and perhaps gain extra income from one of the two parties.

He held Paul for two years without a conviction.

Defense before Festus 25:1-12

Festus replaces Felix and the case is heard again.

When Festus asks him to go to Jerusalem, Paul appeals to Caesar.

He isn't willing to give the Jews another opportunity to plot his death.

Defense before Agrippa 25:13-26:32

In order to write a report to Caesar, Festus asks Agrippa, the last of the Herods, to hear the case and give him an opinion on the matter.

After hearing Paul's defense, even Agrippa recognizes that Paul should not be in jail, much less in danger of death. Nevertheless, because of his appeal to Caesar he must be sent there.

PAUL'S WITNESS ON THE WAY TO ROME 27:1-28:15

His witness on ship 27

Paul sets sail for Rome 27:1-12 1-2

From clues provided in the account of the journey (27:1-44), what was the normal attitude of Roman officials toward their prisoners?

What was the centurion's attitude toward Paul?

Why would Luke mention this contrast?

As they travel to Rome, Paul gains the confidence of the centurion on the boat. **3**

This isn't a normal response between centurion and prisoner.

Julius treats him with kindness **3**

He trusts Paul to stay with friends who can serve him.

It's late in the season so the soldiers and sailors try to stretch their luck. **4-12**

Paul warns them (prophetically?) that this is going to be a disaster.

They are determined to risk it, hoping to get home early.

A violent storm arises 13-26

The people on board try frantically to take adequate measures to secure the ship. **13-20**

When the ship gets into trouble, Paul's prophetic revelation of their fate is significant in the decisions made.

Paul prophesies that if they all stay on board they will be saved.

God has promised to protect him.

God will protect them for his sake. **21-26**

God protects Paul from the storm's destruction.
27-44

The ship wrecks on the shore **27-44**

As they get closer to shore, some sailors try to escape in the life raft. **27-30**

Paul warns them that all must stay on board to be saved from the storm. **31**

The soldiers trust Paul's word and cut loose the life raft. **32**

Paul encourages them to trust God by urging them to eat *before* they land. **33-38**

In the morning, as they head for shore the ship wrecks, but all survive. **39-44**

In the end, Paul's counsel saves them from the shipwreck.

The soldiers want to kill the prisoners so they won't escape.

The centurion protects them all, in order to save Paul's life.

Everyone got to land safely.

God protects His servant, and all his ship mates with him, in the face of violent storm, shipwreck and destruction.

What does the incident tell us about Paul's life and ministry?

It's clear to all that he isn't a prisoner for some terrible crime. **Phil 1:12-13**

It's obvious that God is on Paul's side in this trial/conflict.

God can protect His servants from the most committed adversaries, as well as from the fierce acts of nature.

What lessons concerning our lives today are there in Paul's experience in Acts 27?

The Gospel isn't just some carefully crafted fairy tale.

God has confirmed the truth of the message the apostles preached.

God can protect us in the midst of the opposition, or even before the forces of nature.

If we remain faithful, we needn't fear those who oppose us!

Compare Daniel/Revelation => The faithful ultimately triumph!