

Journey to Rome: ACTS 27:1-44

Will Jesus be able to get Paul to Rome?

Paul testified before the Jewish Council and then they formed a conspiracy to murder Paul. The Roman commander saved Paul's life. Jesus told Paul he would go to Rome and be a witness there. Acts 23:11: *The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."*

It has been at least two years since Jesus said this. Paul has been through several trials with Roman governors Felix and Festus and the Jewish king Agrippa. After Paul gave his testimony to King Agrippa, he was put on a ship for Rome.

Historical Reliability of Scripture: 27:1-8

You may find this travel description boring and irrelevant. Verses 1-8 are inspired Scripture! All these places are real and support the historical reliability of Scripture. Theologians call it "salvation history." The Bible's history affirms its theological content. If the Bible's historical facts are inaccurate then you cannot trust its message of salvation in Christ.

Paul's Warning: 27:9-13

Paul warned the ship's owner and captain and Julius the Centurion (27:10). Did the Holy Spirit speak to him in a dream? Paul predicted what happened.

Was the storm from Satan or from God? If the storm was from Satan then it was meant to stop Paul from getting to Rome as Jesus promised. Even if it was from Satan, then God permitted it and used it to accomplish His purpose. This is probably true for any "storm" we experience in life. What Satan intends for evil, God can use for His good purpose.

Sudden Storm and Hope Abandoned: 27:14-20

The ship lost the ability to navigate - no sun or stars.

They secured the hull of the ship to hold it together.

They threw the cargo overboard.

They threw the tackle overboard.

They gave up all hope of surviving the storm. 27:20: *When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned.*

Did Paul abandon hope of getting to Rome as Jesus promised? NO!

Paul's Confidence in the Storm: 27:21-38

Paul waited until everyone on the ship was desperate and without hope. Paul reminded them of his previous warning. Paul assured them they would survive the storm. Paul shared his faith in God. Paul was visited by an angel who said, "Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you." The GR word "granted" has the meaning of "to grant as a favor." Paul must have prayed and asked God to spare the lives of everyone on the ship. God assured Paul that He answered his prayer.

The angel must have told him the ship would crash on an island.

The Roman soldiers listened to Paul: 27-32. They stopped sailors trying to escape.

Paul encouraged the 276 people on the ship and told them to eat: 33-38. Do you feel like eating when you're worried and anxious?

Shipwreck: 27:39-44

Sailors cast off the anchors and the ship struck a "reef where two seas met." Archaeology has discovered this is St. Thomas Bay not St. Paul's Bay on the island of Malta. Four ancient anchors were found at the spot where two seas meet.

Bob Cornuke is the “Indiana Jones” of biblical archaeology. He is a former crime scene investigator and now the founder of BASE (Bible Archaeology Search and Exploration Institute) wrote: "In Acts 27, Luke narrates the story of Paul traveling to Rome on a large Alexandrian grain freighter. This ship endured one of the worst storms in history, eventually shipwrecking off the coast of Malta. Luke’s amazing details include everything from the vessel’s nautical headings, the type of storm, the ship’s direction of drift, geographical landmarks on Malta, reef configurations, and even the depths of the seafloor. Every detail, including how every man on board, including Paul, survived is mentioned."

Go here to read about it: [Paul's Shipwreck – Base Institute](https://baseinstitute.org/pauls-shipwreck)
<https://baseinstitute.org/pauls-shipwreck>

Application: You must be the voice of confidence in the storm! Be bold and let your faith in God encourage others! How can you be the person who is calm in the midst of the storm? How can you bring hope and encouragement to people who have lost hope and are discouraged?

First, pray and listen to the Holy Spirit’s calming voice in the midst of the storm. What did Paul do? 27:10: Paul 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.” Paul warned them (ship’s owner, captain, and Roman centurion Julius) not to sail. Paul foretold the loss of the ship, its cargo, and their lives. How did Paul know this? The text doesn’t say, but I believe Paul prayed about it and the Holy Spirit spoke to him. Paul “perceived” means this was more than human intuition or information from a weather forecast. Paul “perceived” in his spirit a warning from the Holy Spirit. If you are a Christian the Holy Spirit lives in you and communicates with your spirit.

Second, seek and speak the truth from God’s Word.

Paul spoke truth from God's word. Paul went from a Holy Spirit impression he received in prayer to a direct word from God delivered by an angel. Paul told everyone on the ship to "be in good spirits, take courage," which is "calm down, don't worry."

27:21-26: ²¹ Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. ²² Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. ²³ For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, ²⁴ and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.' ²⁵ So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. ²⁶ But we must run aground on some island."

This must be a direct word from God because Paul said they would crash on an island.

Speak the truth from God's Word. Only truth from God can really bring peace. Where did Paul get his confidence? Paul got it from the spoken Word of God. Jesus told Paul he would get safely to Rome. At crucial moments of uncertainty Paul got assurance from God.

When you have a direct word from God about the circumstance you are in then you can be bold and encourage others who are fearful.

27:33-34: As day was about to dawn, Paul urged them all to take some food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day that you have continued in suspense and without food, having taken nothing. Therefore I urge you to take some food. For it will give you strength, for not a hair is to perish from the head of any of you."

Third, share your faith in God and how he has delivered you in the past. Paul said, "I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told." Paul encouraged all 276 people on the ship - sailors, Roman soldiers, and prisoners - by sharing with them his faith in God. Paul was

a prisoner under Roman guard and Paul was the person who told them what to do. It's like Paul was giving the orders. Christians can stand up and shout in the midst of any crisis, "Turn to God and trust in Him."

You must be the voice of confidence in the storm! Be bold and let your faith in God encourage others!

Be a confident and encouraging voice in the midst of this COVID pandemic storm and calm people's fears.

Seek and speak the truth from God's Word.

Would you be able to encourage fearful people saying, "This is the 13th month you have been fearful of this COVID pandemic. You've been locked inside and afraid to gather with other people. Afraid to shake a hand. Therefore, I urge you to go to work, go to church, go to school, go shopping, go to a birthday party, eat out at a restaurant, enjoy a fellowship. You will not die."

Memorize and pray God's word to calm your fears - **Psalm 91**.

Search for the true facts about the virus.

[Don't be fooled into fear by false facts and fake news. Turn off the news. COVID is real just like the flu but it is being used for political purposes. There are wicked politicians who say "Never waste a good crisis" for political purposes. Get the facts about the numbers. One reason for the exaggerated COVID19 cases is that the annual FLU is being categorized as COVID (same symptoms). Also the SARS RNA test has a high false positive rate. We now know the numbers are skewed for money and political purposes. The CDC even acknowledged the actual death count (with COVID as the only cause of death) is only 6% of the number that is in the news every day - 360,000]

Be a confident and encouraging voice in the midst of this 2020 presidential election storm. This presidential election feels like a ship in a storm. After experiencing the 2020 presidential elections I

feel like Paul - a prisoner on a sinking ship. The USA is the ship in the storm. It has lost its source of navigation just as Paul's ship could not see the sun or stars to navigate. America's source of navigation is the Bible and its Constitution. The Bible has been ignored and the Constitution has been violated.

America is in rapid spiritual and moral decline. The decline in morality leads to the denial of Constitutional rights.

John Adams, second President of America, said in 1798: *"We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."*

Here's the prime example from the 117th Congress. Sunday January 3 at the swearing in of the 117th Congress, Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (Democrat-Missouri) an ordained Methodist minister closed his prayer with these words: "May the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us and give us peace in our families, peace across this land, and dare I ask, o Lord, peace even in this chamber. We ask it in the name of the monotheistic God, Brahma, and 'God' known by many names by many different faiths. Amen and awoman."

Is he really so ignorant that he does not know that "amen" is not a gender reference, but it means "let it be so" in Latin, Greek, Aramaic, and Hebrew (verily or truly)? How dare he equate the God of the Bible with Brahma (god of Hinduism and Buddhism) and every other false god in the world? At least he did not desecrate the name of Jesus Christ. This man is a universalist, a blasphemer, and a false prophet. He will be judged by Jesus Christ if he does not repent.

[Jesus Christ called the Congress of his day a "brood of vipers" and a "den of thieves." The Pharisees and Sadducees were the religious-political leaders of Israel. Congress (excluding the born-again Christian

Congressmen & women) has become a brood of poisonous snakes and a den of thieves.]

Franklin Graham said, "We are in trouble. I believe God's judgment is coming, for the sins of our nation are great and they are a stench in the nostrils of our Creator."

True Christians must have the courage of Paul on the ship to Rome. We must have the courage to call the USA back to God by repentance and faith.

Be prepared. Something BIG is going to happen.

Memorize and pray God's true Word: Psalm 91 for COVID19. Psalm 2 for the stolen presidential election of 2020.

Extra Application 1: Have you ever been in a storm so bad in your life that you abandoned all hope? Maybe it was a medical report, a financial loss, or the death of a relationship. If not, then thank God!

If yes, then maybe God brought you to that place so you would stop trusting in yourself and you would depend completely on Him. God never wastes a good crisis to realize our weakness and His power to save us.

Extra Application 2: God will get you where He wants you to be at the time He wants you there. Relax and enjoy the journey.