

The Acts of the Apostles

Lesson 19: From Caesarea to Rome

Acts 27:1 to 28:31



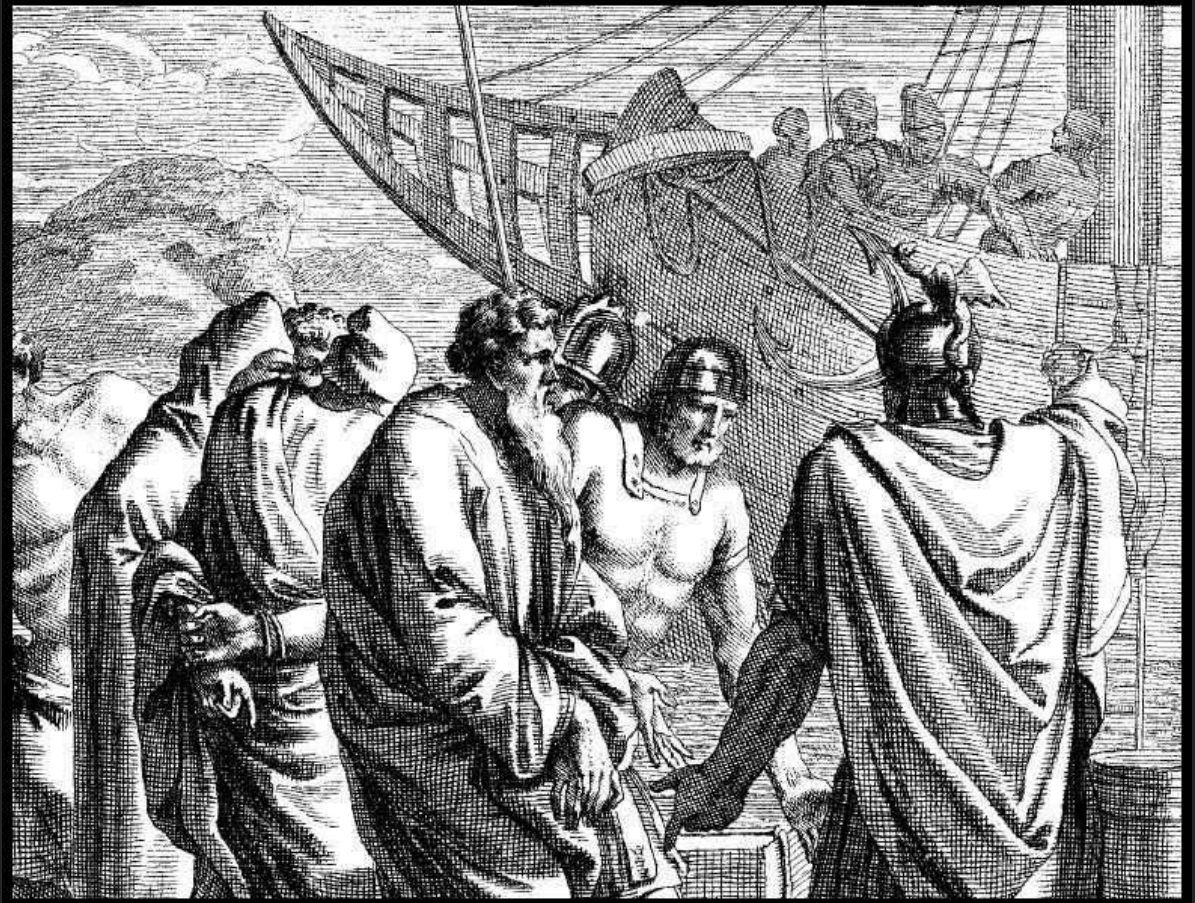
Acts 27:1 to 28:16 The Voyage to Rome

1. **Caesarea to Myra**
2. Myra to Melita
3. Melita to Puteoli

Starting out from Caesarea, Paul began his long journey to Rome, a journey in three parts.

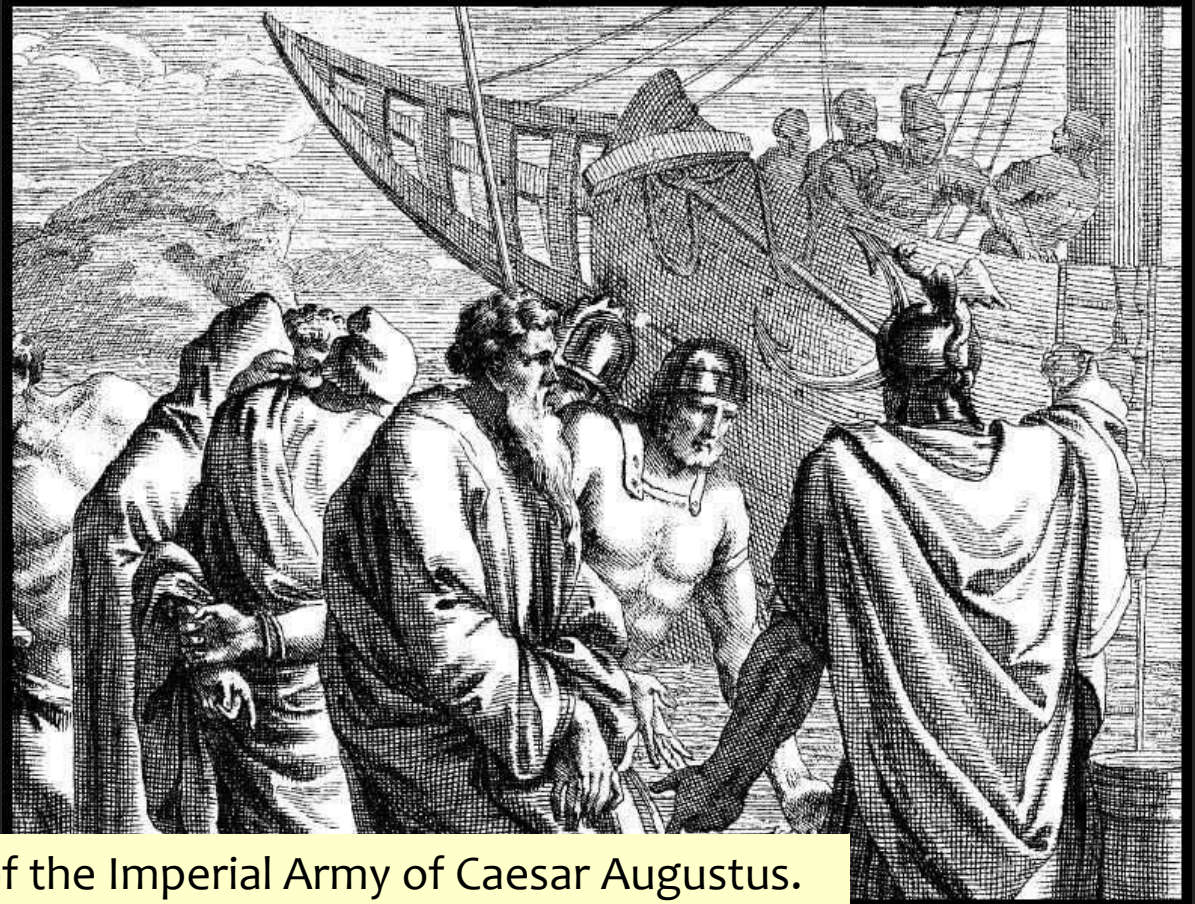
Acts 27:1

And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto *one* named Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band.

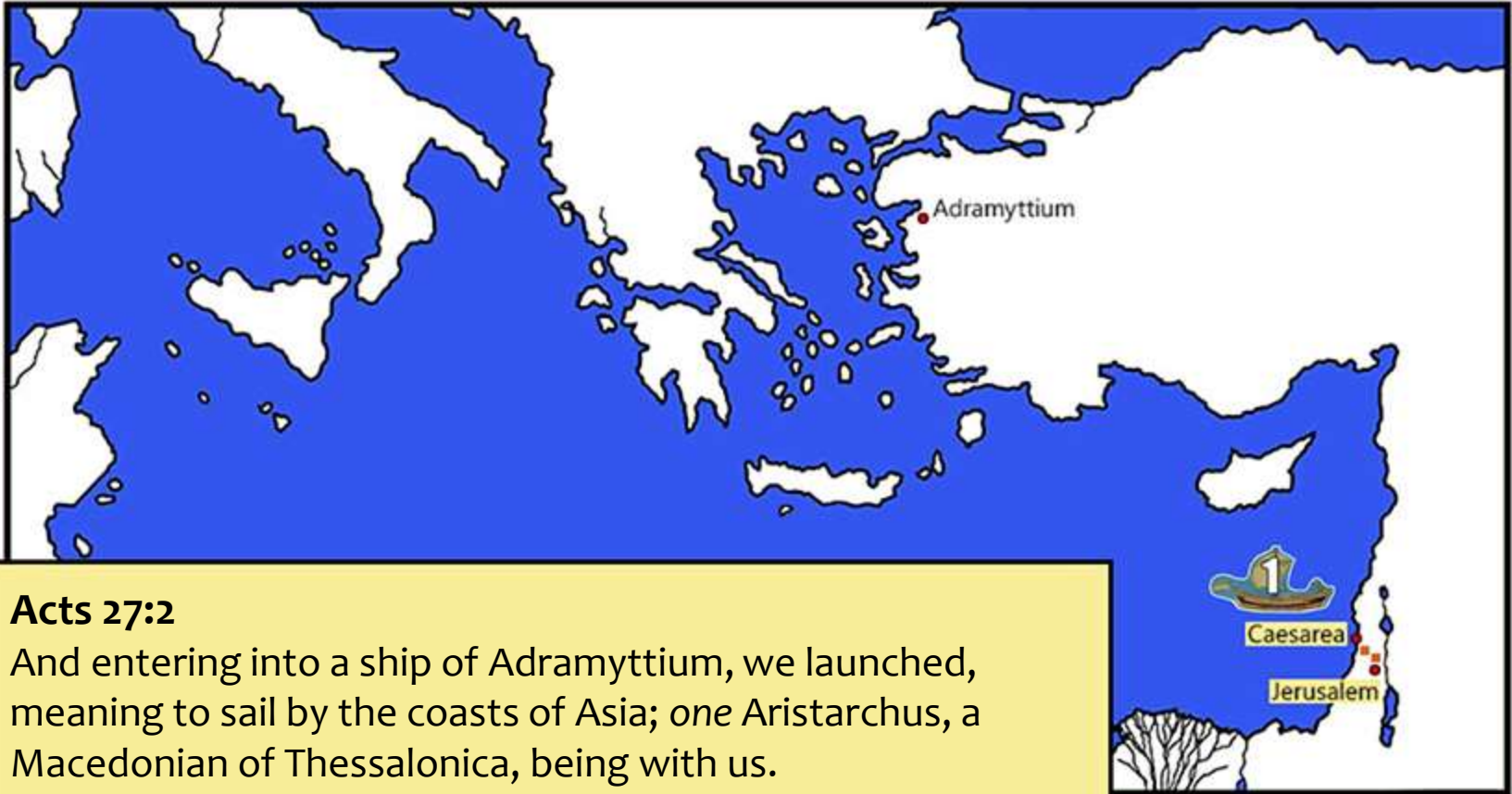


Acts 27:1

And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto *one* named Julius, **a centurion of Augustus' band.**



He served in a special division of the Imperial Army of Caesar Augustus.



Acts 27:2

And entering into a ship of Adramyttium, we launched, meaning to sail by the coasts of Asia; one Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, being with us.

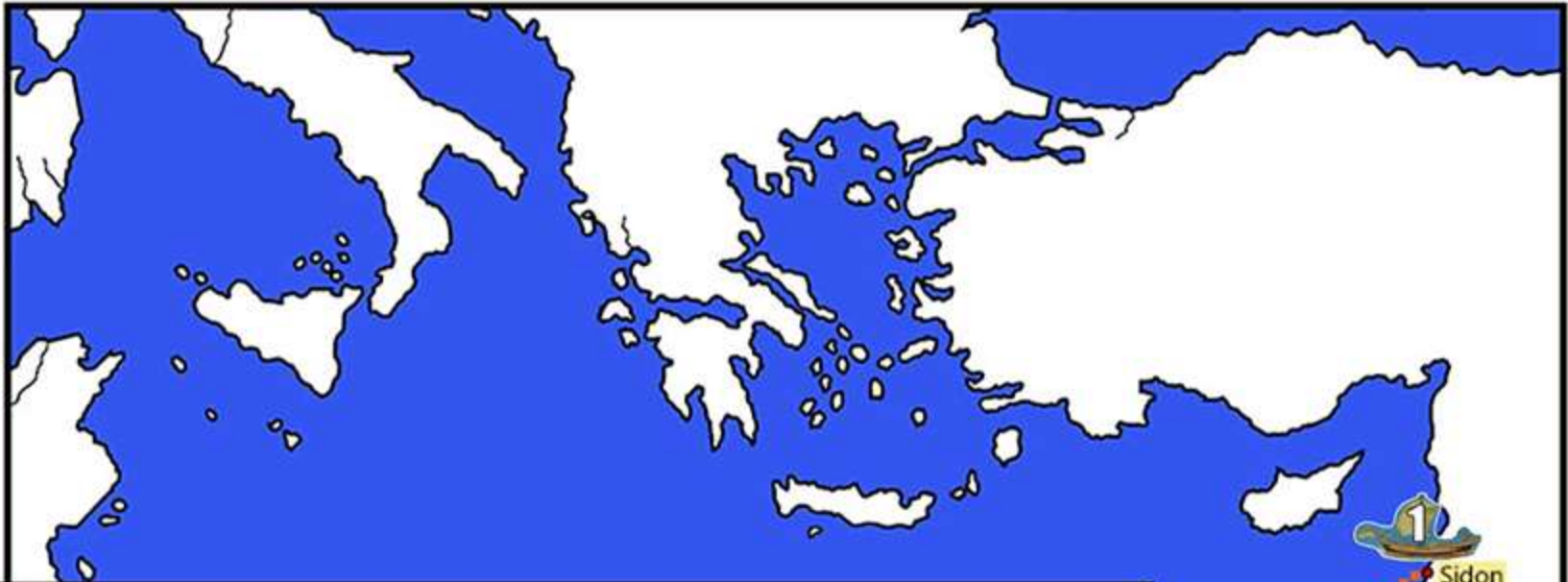


Luke records the home port of each ship they sail in.

Acts 27:2

And entering into **a ship of Adramyttium**, we launched, meaning to sail by the coasts of Asia; one Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, being with us.





Acts 27:3

And the next *day* we touched at Sidon.

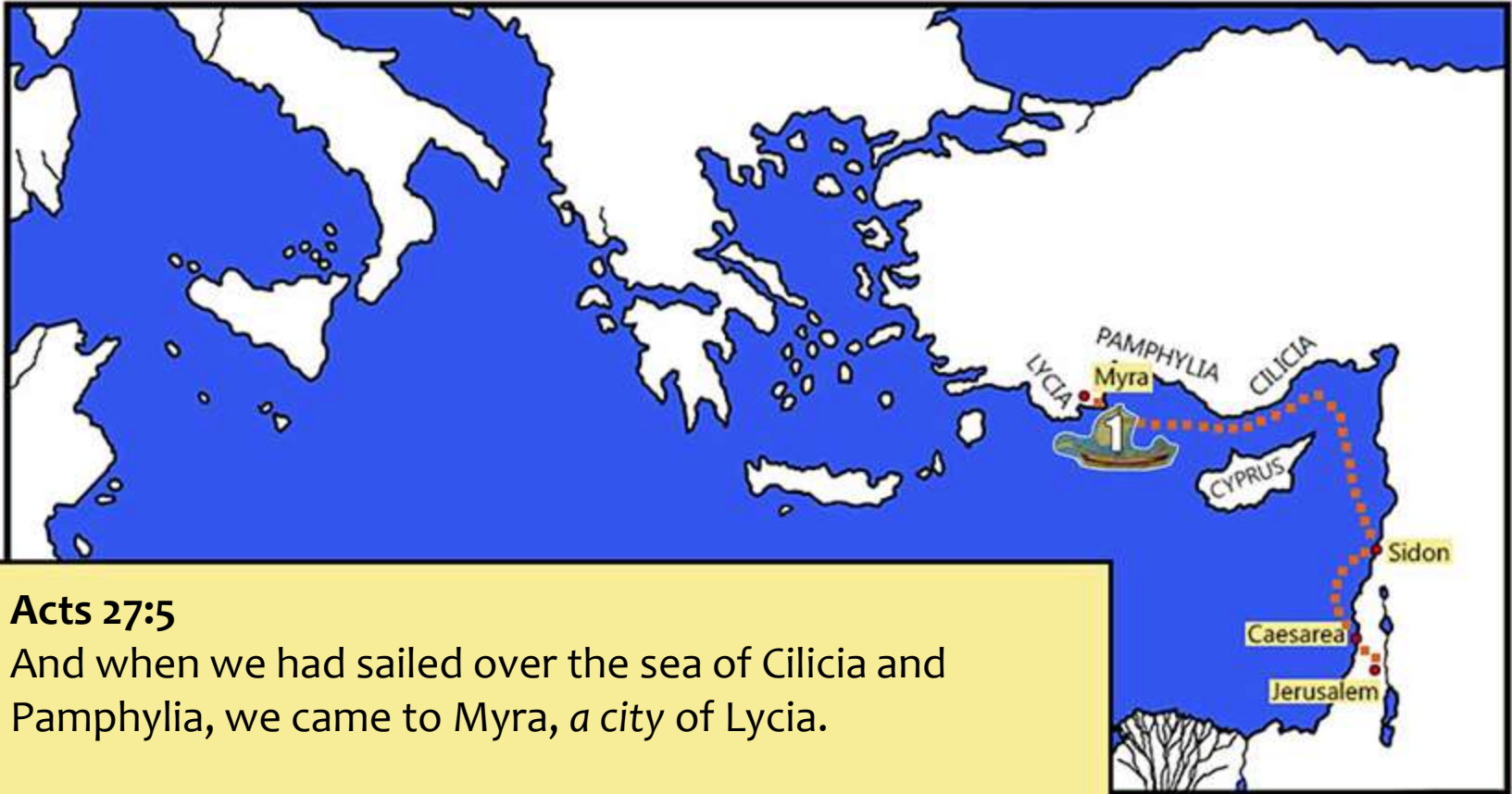
And Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave *him* liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself.





Acts 27:4

And when we had launched from thence, we sailed under Cyprus, because the winds were contrary.



Acts 27:5

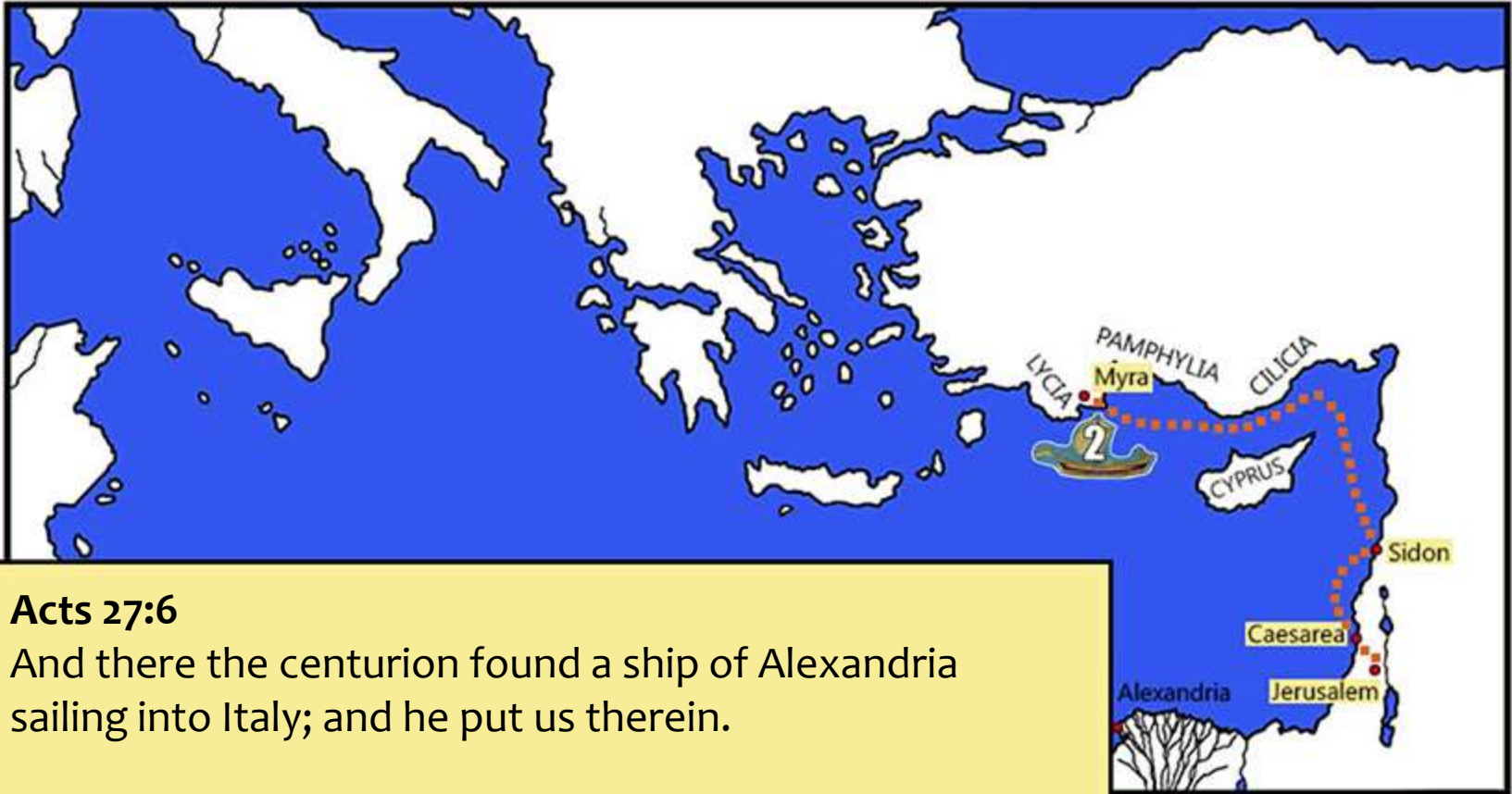
And when we had sailed over the sea of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to *Myra*, a city of Lycia.



Acts 27:1 to 28:16 The Voyage to Rome

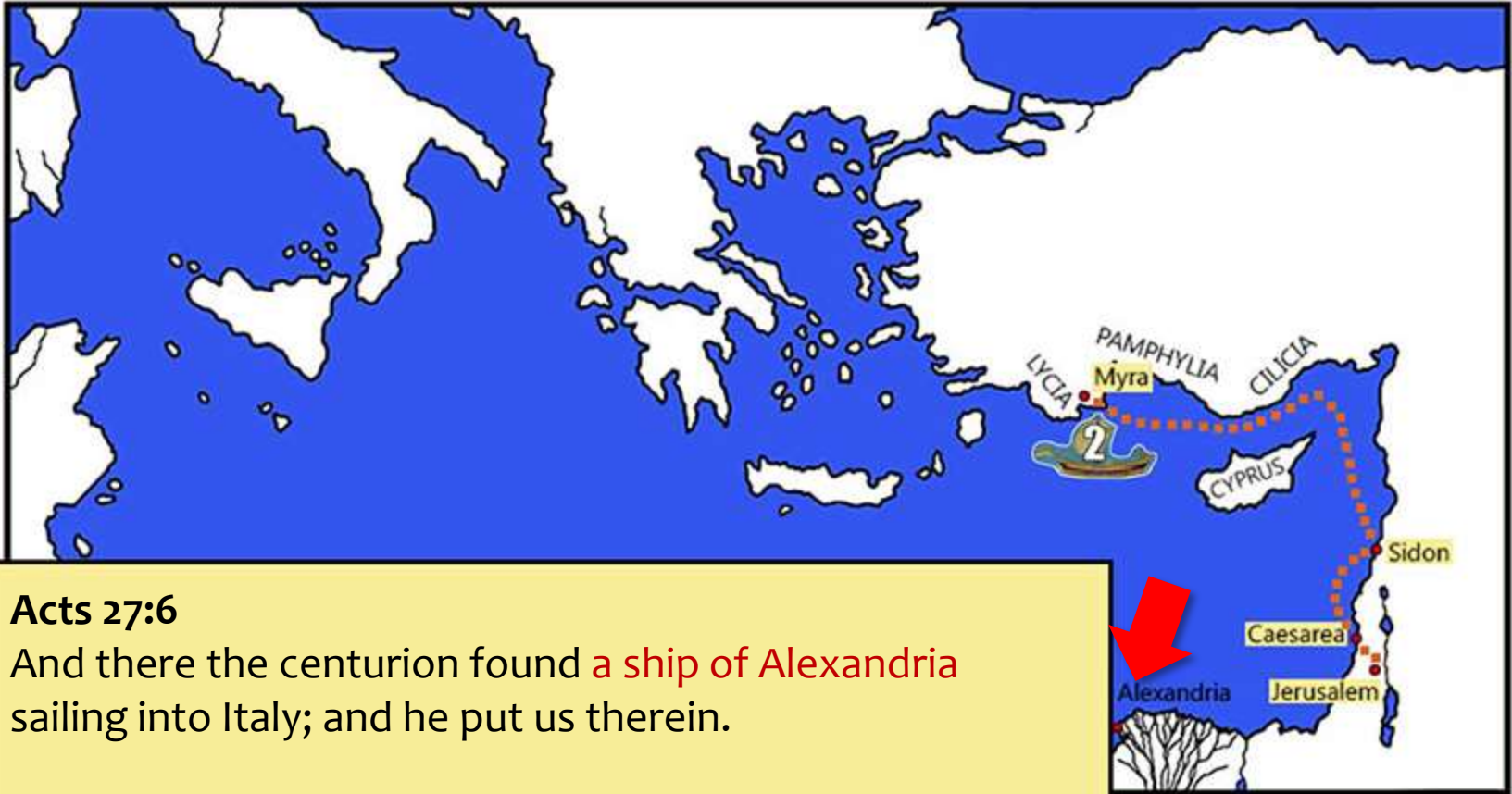
1. Caesarea to Myra
2. **Myra to Melita**
3. Melita to Puteoli

They left Myra in a different ship.



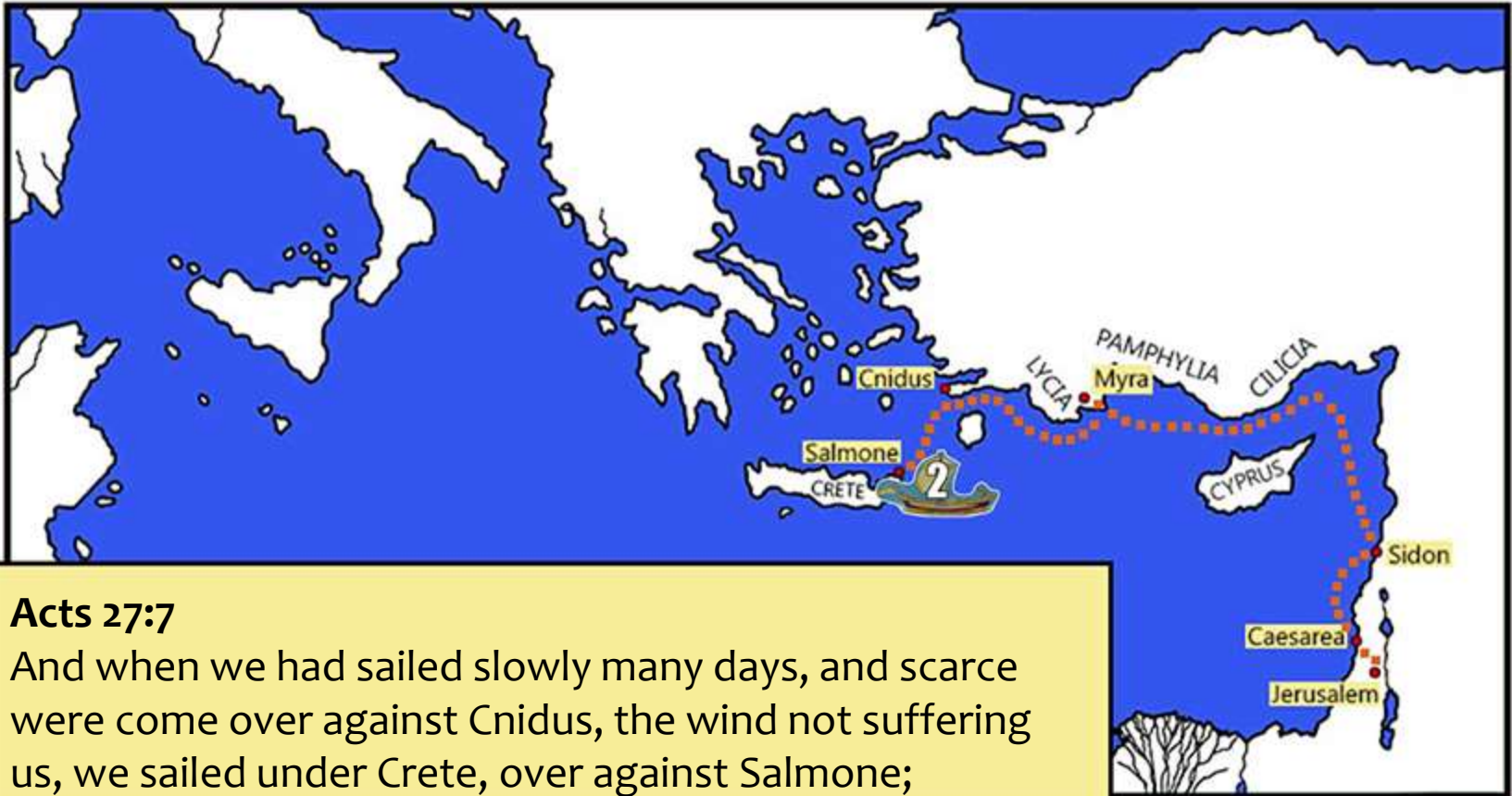
Acts 27:6

And there the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing into Italy; and he put us therein.



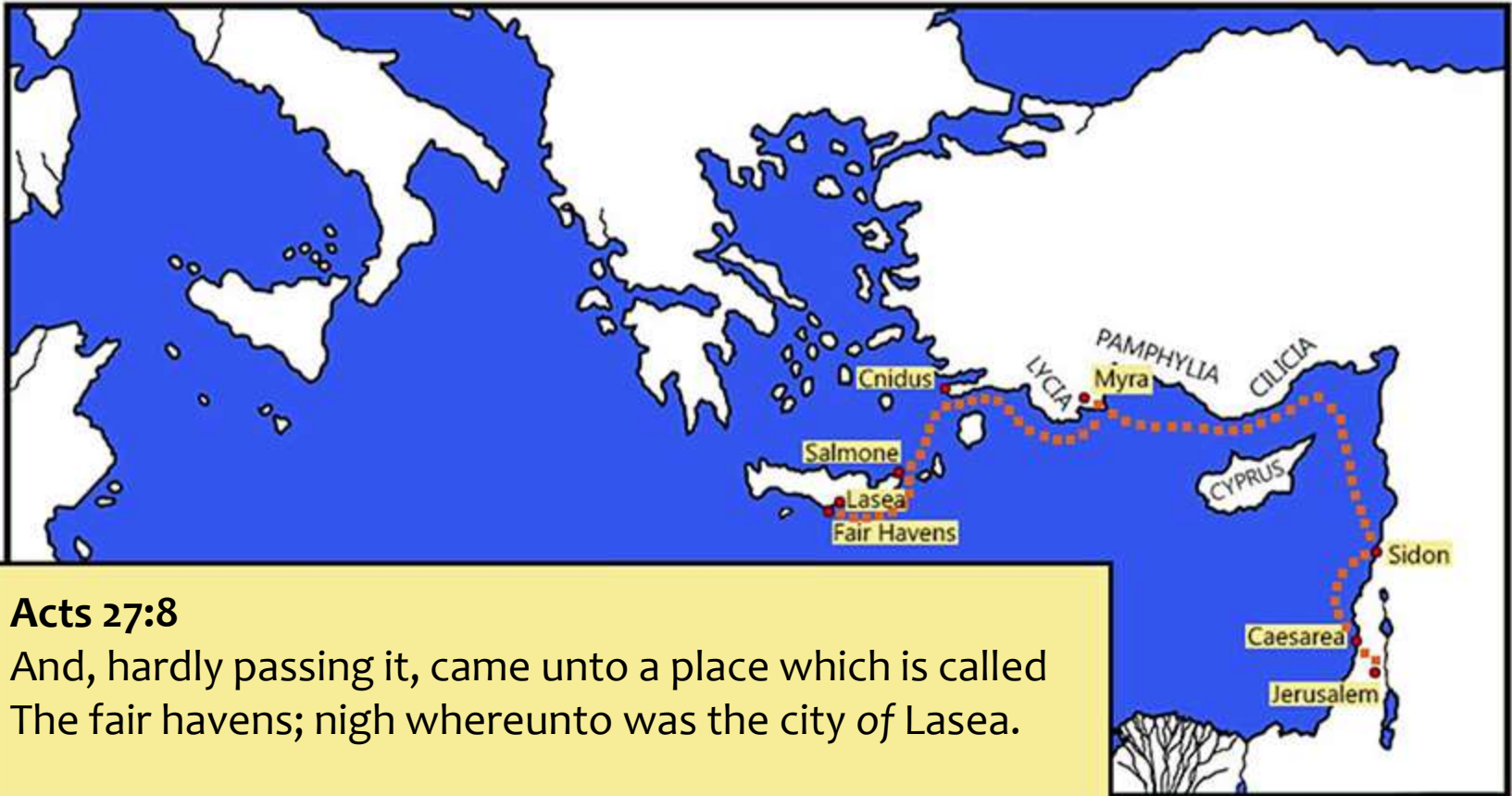
Acts 27:6

And there the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing into Italy; and he put us therein.



Acts 27:7

And when we had sailed slowly many days, and scarce were come over against Cnidus, the wind not suffering us, we sailed under Crete, over against Salmone;



Acts 27:8

And, hardly passing it, came unto a place which is called The fair havens; nigh whereunto was the city of Lasea.

Acts 27:9-11

- 9 Now when much time was spent,
and when sailing was now dangerous,
because the fast was now already past,
Paul admonished *them*,
- 10 And said unto them,
Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be
with hurt and much damage, not only of
the lading and ship, but also of our lives.
- 11 Nevertheless the centurion believed the
master and the owner of the ship, more
than those things which were spoken by
Paul.



Acts 27:9-11

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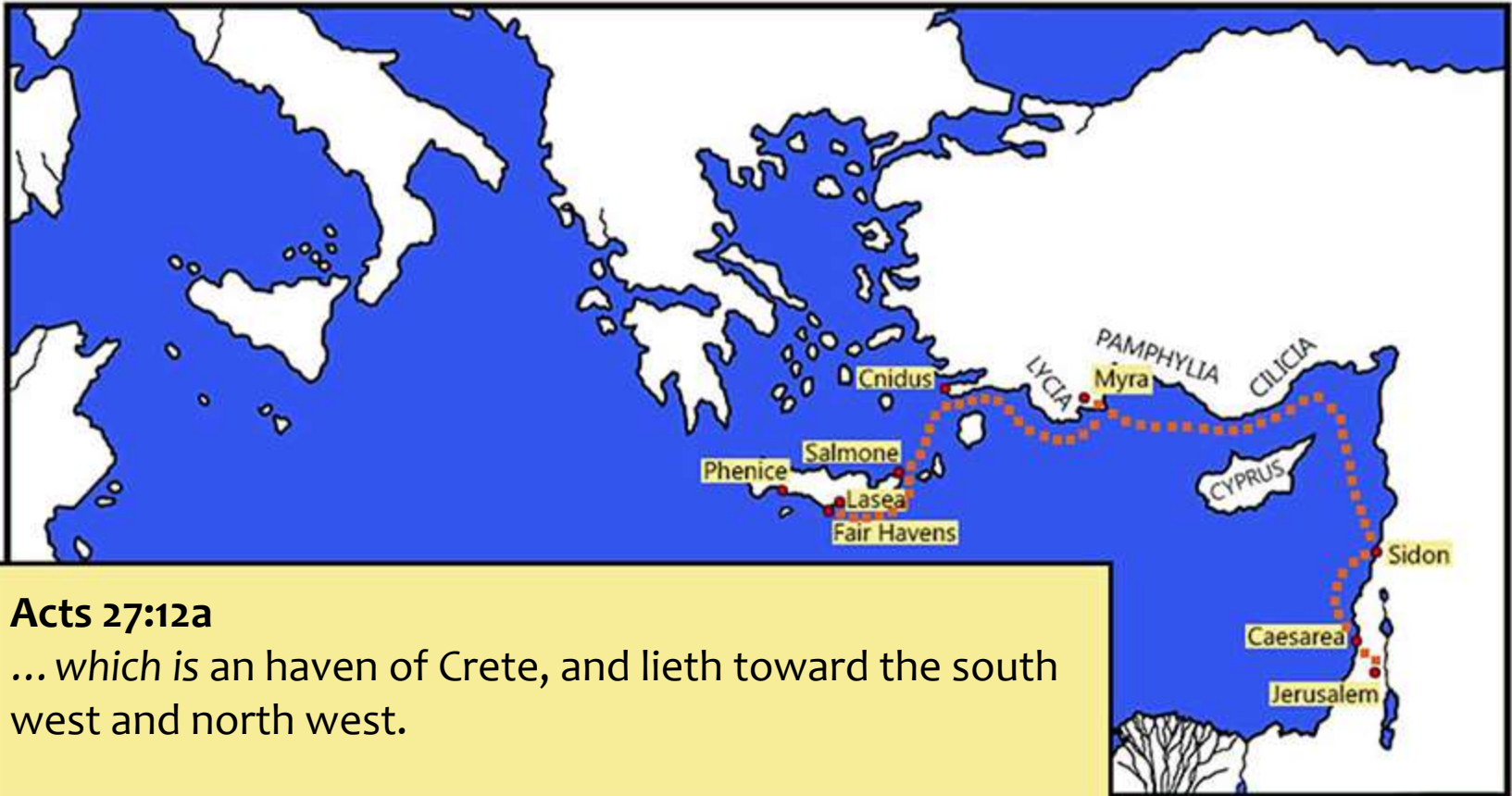
This fast took place on the 10th day of the seventh month, on the Day of Atonement – about 1 October.

The winter storm months had begun.




Acts 27:12a

And because the haven was not commodious to winter in, the more part advised to depart thence also, if by any means they might attain to Phenice, *and there to winter;*



Acts 27:12a

... which is an haven of Crete, and lieth toward the south west and north west.



The harbor of Phoenice
opened toward the
southwest and northwest.

A map of the Eastern Mediterranean region, including parts of Asia Minor, Cyprus, and the Levant. A red dotted line indicates a travel route starting from Jerusalem, going north to Caesarea, then east to Sidon, Myra, and Cnidus, before turning south to Phoenice. Other locations marked include Salmone, Lasea, and Fair Havens. Regional names like LYCIA, PAMPHYLIA, and CILICIA are also shown.

Acts 27:12a

... which is an haven of Crete, and lieth toward the south west and north west.

Acts 27:13

And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained *their* purpose, loosing *thence*, they sailed close by Crete.



Acts 27:14-15

- ¹⁴ But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon.
- ¹⁵ And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let *her* drive.

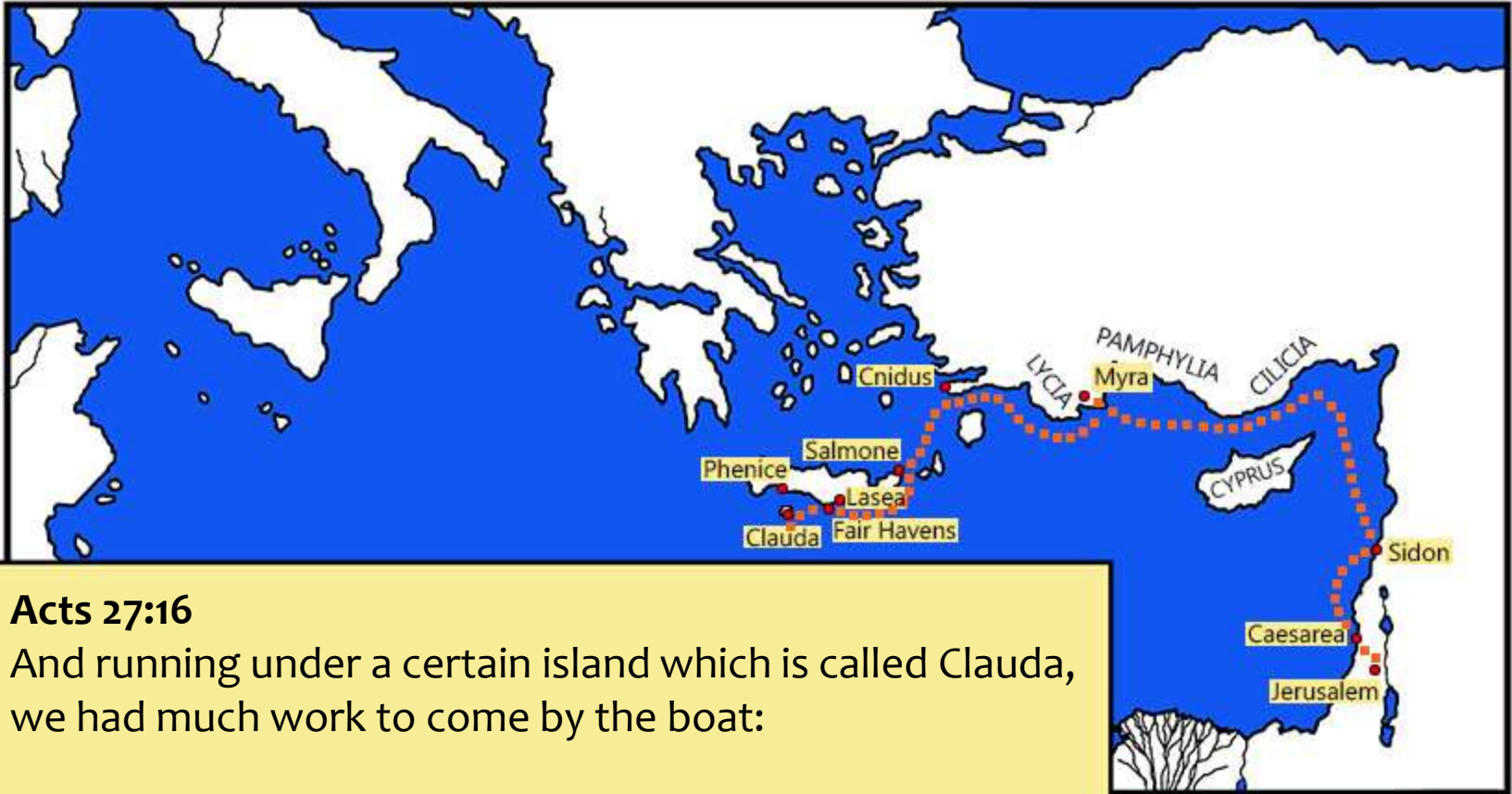


Acts 27:14-15

- ¹⁴ But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called **Euroclydon**.
- ¹⁵ And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let *her* drive.



The *Euroclydon* is a cyclonic northeast wind that blows in the Mediterranean in autumn and winter.



Acts 27:16

And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the boat:

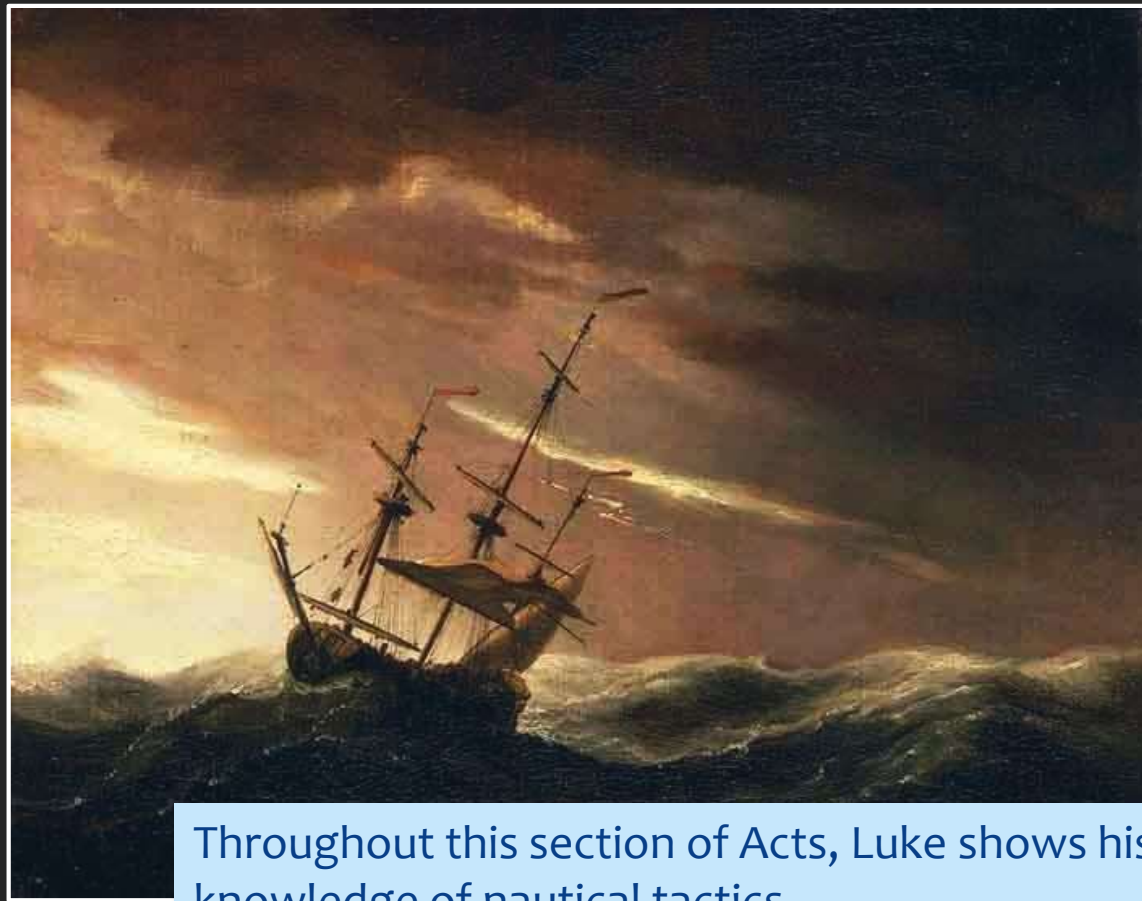
Acts 27:17-19

- ¹⁷ Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven.
- ¹⁸ And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next *day* they lightened the ship;
- ¹⁹ And the third *day* we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship.



Acts 27:17-19

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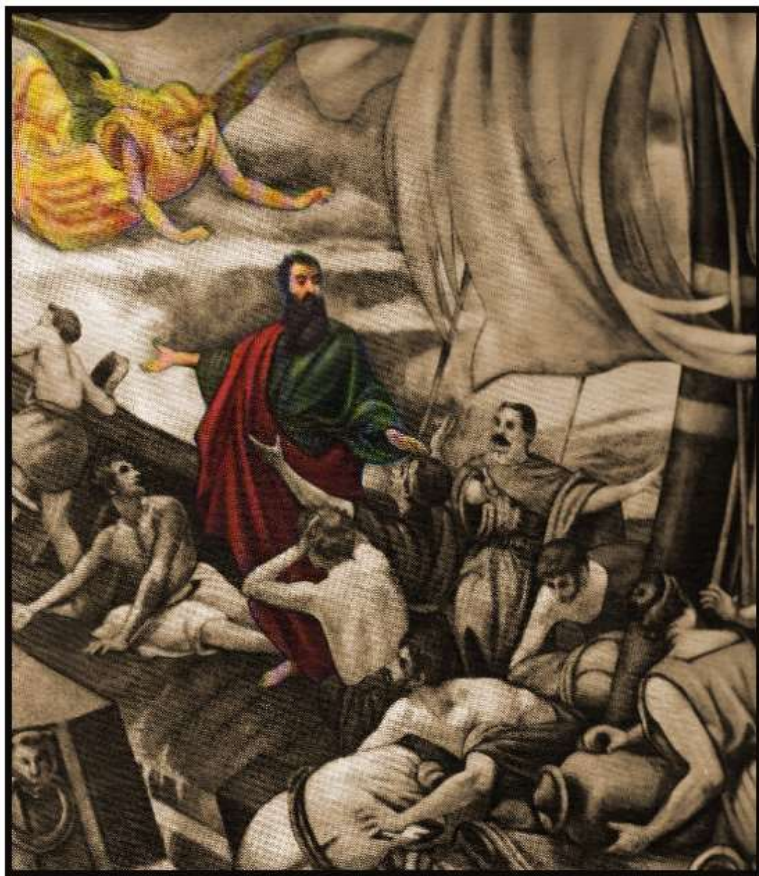


Throughout this section of Acts, Luke shows his knowledge of nautical tactics.

Acts 27:20

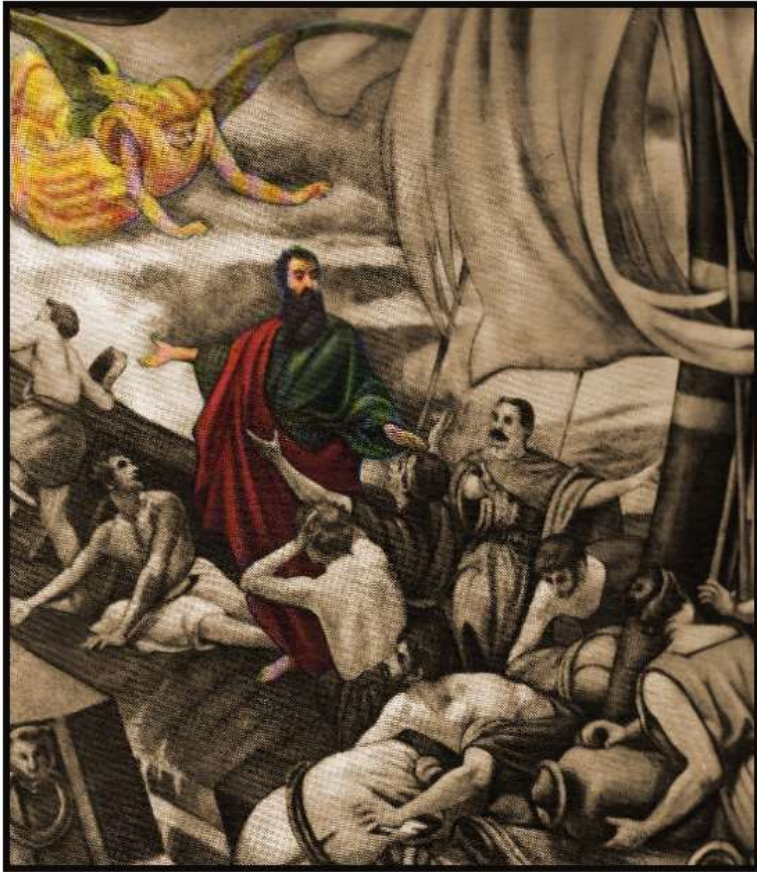
And when neither sun
nor stars in many days
appeared, and no small
tempest lay on us,
all hope that we should
be saved was then taken
away.





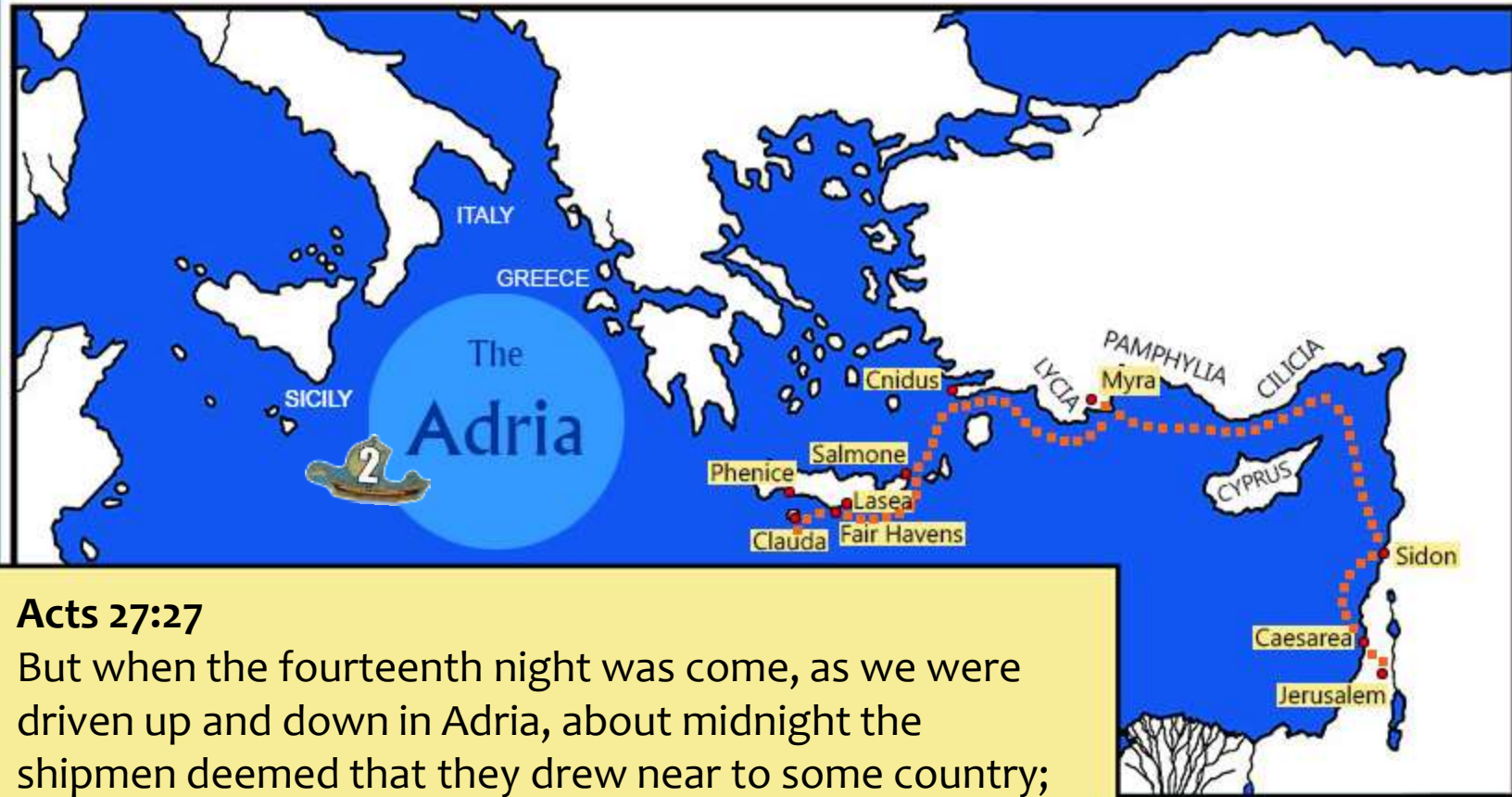
Acts 27:21-24

- ²¹ But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.
- ²² And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of *any man's* life among you, but of the ship.
- ²³ For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,
- ²⁴ **Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.**



Acts 27:25-26

- ²⁵ Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer:
for I believe God, that it shall be even as
it was told me.
- ²⁶ Howbeit we must be cast upon a
certain island.



Acts 27:27

But when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country;

In Paul's day the *Adria* included the part of the Mediterranean Sea lying south of Italy, east of Sicily, and west of Greece.



Acts 27:27

But when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in **Adria**, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country;

Acts 27:28

And sounded, and found *it* twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little further, they sounded again, and found *it* fifteen fathoms.



Acts 27:28

And sounded, and found it twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little further, they sounded again, and found it fifteen fathoms.



In nautical terms, the word **sound** is used to describe the process of determining the depth of water under a ship. They were trying to know if they were near land. First they measured a depth of 120 feet, and then only 90 feet.

Acts 27:28

Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day.



Acts 27:30-32

- ³⁰ And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship,
- ³¹ Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.
- ³² Then the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off.

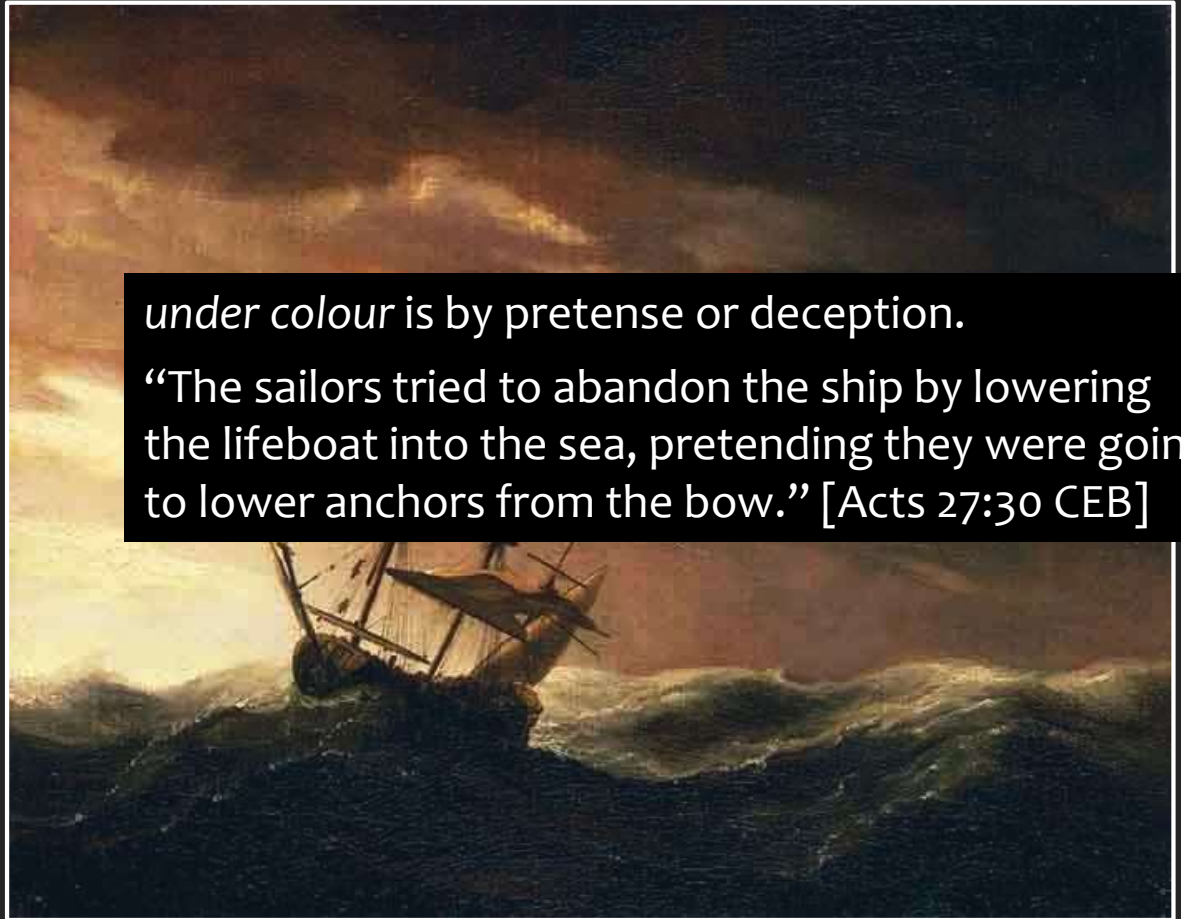


Acts 27:30-32

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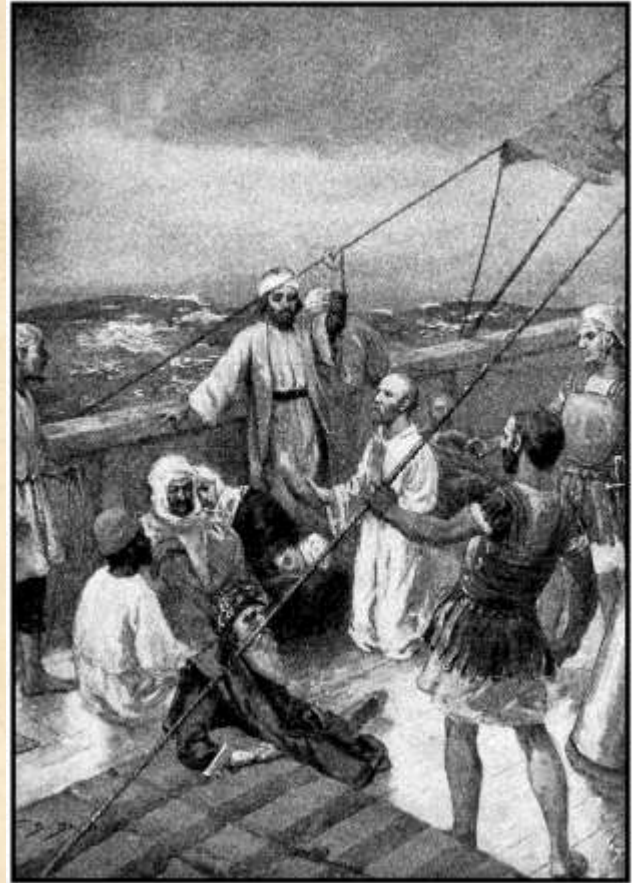
under colour is by pretense or deception.

“The sailors tried to abandon the ship by lowering the lifeboat into the sea, pretending they were going to lower anchors from the bow.” [Acts 27:30 CEB]



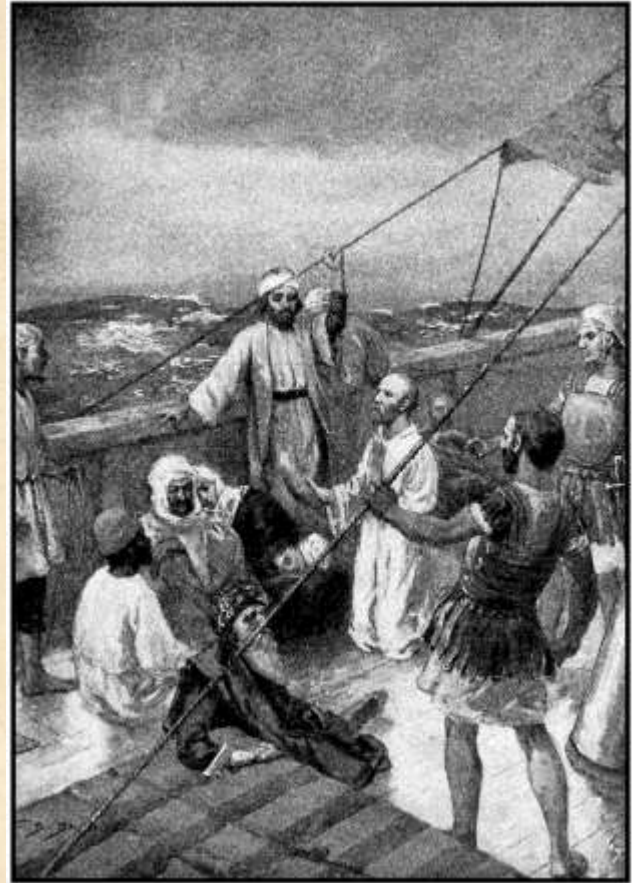
Acts 27:33-36

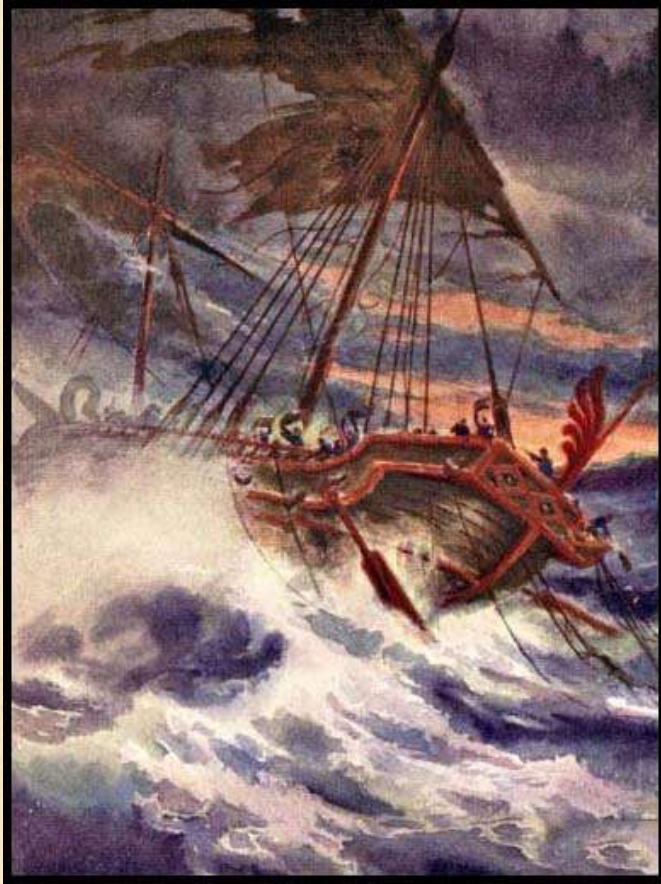
- 33 And while the day was coming on,
Paul besought *them* all to take meat, saying,
This day is the fourteenth day that ye have
tarried and continued fasting, having taken
nothing.
- 34 Wherefore I pray you to take *some* meat:
for this is for your health: for there shall not
an hair fall from the head of any of you.
- 35 And when he had thus spoken,
he took bread, and gave thanks to God in
presence of them all:
and when he had broken *it*, he began to eat.
- 36 Then were they all of good cheer,
and they also took *some* meat.



Acts 27:37-38

- 37 And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen [276] souls.
- 38 And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, and cast out the wheat into the sea.





Acts 27:39-40

- ³⁹ And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into the which they were minded, if it were possible, to thrust in the ship.
- ⁴⁰ And when they had taken up the anchors, they committed *themselves* unto the sea, and loosed the rudder bands, and hoised up the mainsail to the wind, and made toward shore.

Acts 27:41

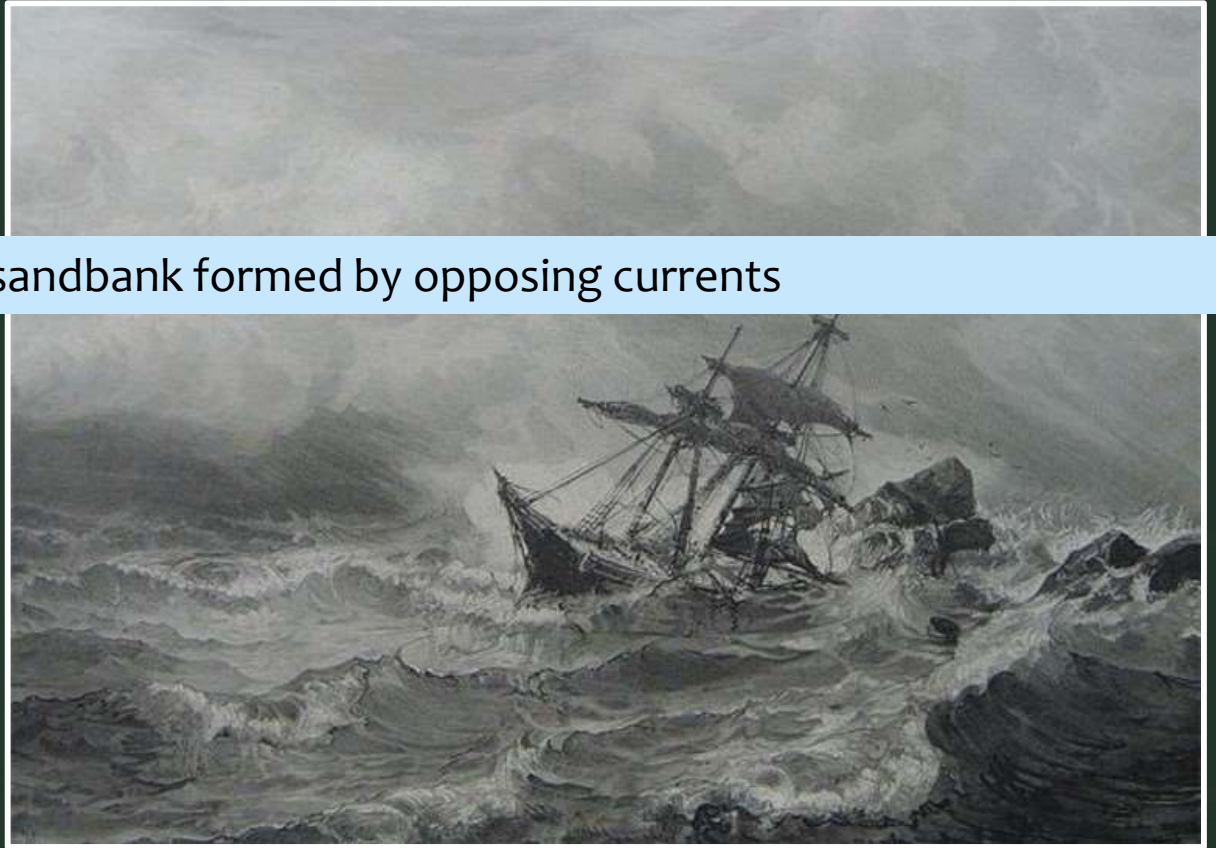
And falling into a place
where two seas met,
they ran the ship
aground;
and the forepart stuck
fast, and remained
unmoveable,
but the hinder part
was broken with the
violence of the waves.



Acts 27:41

And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast, and remained unmoveable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves.

a sandbank formed by opposing currents



Acts 27:42-44a

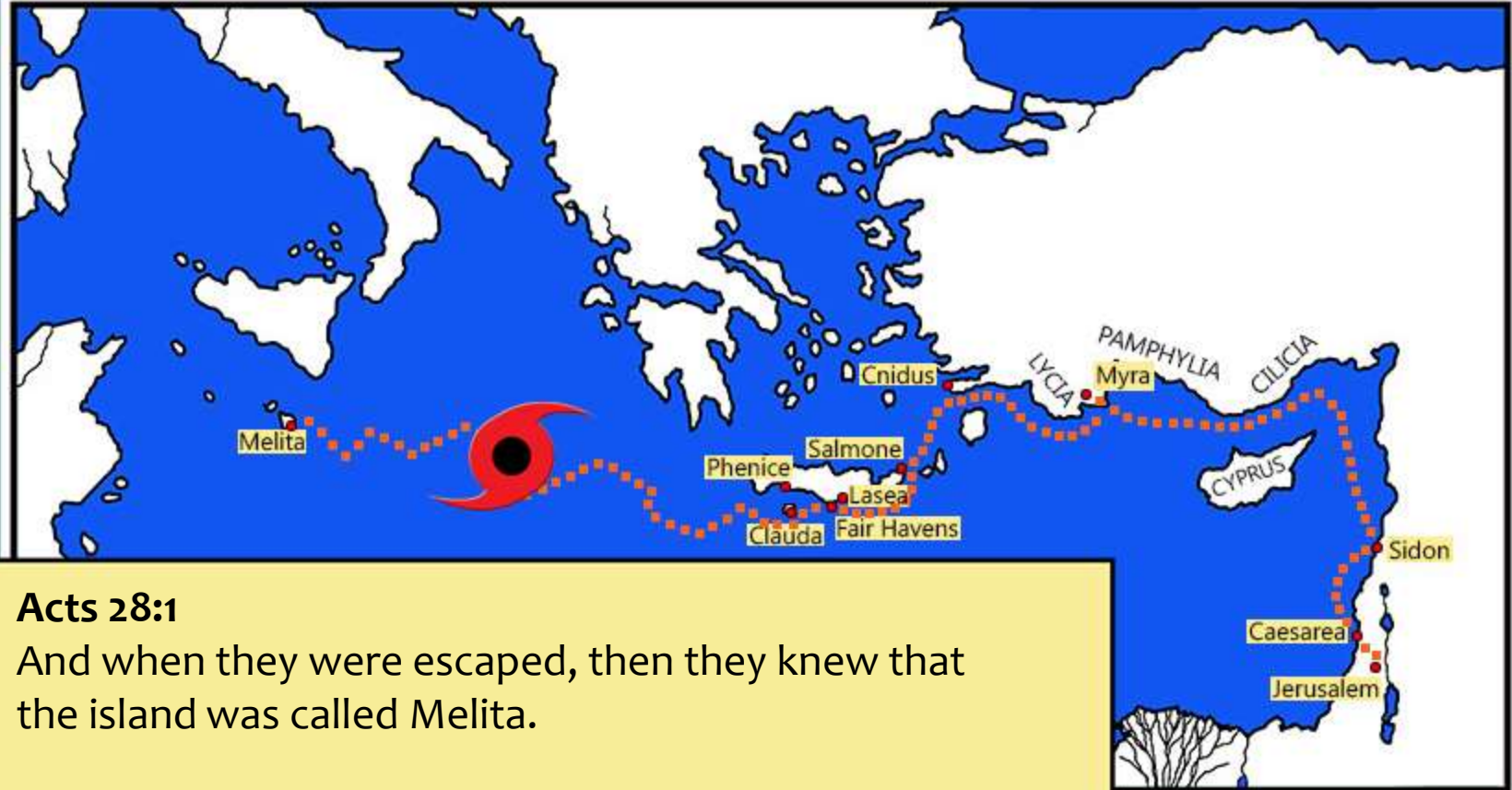
- ⁴² And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape.
- ⁴³ But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from *their* purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast *themselves* first into the sea, and get to land:
- ⁴⁴ And the rest, some on boards, and some on *broken pieces* of the ship.



Acts 27:44b

And so it came to pass, that they
escaped all safe to land.





Acts 28:1

And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita.



Acts 28:2

And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold.

Acts 28:3-4

- 3 And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid *them* on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand.
- 4 And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live.



Acts 28:5-6

- 5 And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.
- 6 Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly:
but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god.



Acts 28:7-8

- 7 In the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius; who received us, and lodged us three days courteously.
- 8 And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux [*dysentery*]: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him.



Acts 28:9-10

- ⁹ So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed:
- ¹⁰ Who also honoured us with many honours; and when we departed, they laded us with such things as were necessary.





Acts 27:1 to 28:16
The Voyage to Rome

1. Caesarea to Myra
2. Myra to Melita
3. **Melita to Puteoli**



Acts 28:11

And after three months we departed in a ship of Alexandria, which had wintered in the isle, whose sign was Castor and Pollux.



Acts 28:12-13a

- ¹² And landing at Syracuse, we tarried *there* three days.
- ¹³ And from thence we fetched a compass, and came to Rhegium:

To “fetch a compass” is to make a circuit; to take a circuitous route going to a place.

2 Samuel 5:23

And when David enquired of the LORD, he said, Thou shalt not go up; *but fetch a compass* behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.

2 Kings 3:9a

So the king of Israel went, and the king of Judah, and the king of Edom: and they *fetch a compass* of seven days' journey ...



Acts 28:13b-14

^{13b} ... and after one day the south wind blew, and we came the next day to Puteoli:

¹⁴ Where we found brethren, and were desired to tarry with them seven days: and so we went toward Rome.



The third ship landed safely at Puteoli in Italy.
The remainder of Paul's trip to Rome was by land.



Acts 28:15

And from thence, when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appii forum, and The three taverns: whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage.



The Appii forum (the marketplace of Appius) was a well-known station on the Appian Way, one of the earliest and most important Roman roads of the ancient republic.



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The three taverns was a village about ten miles near Rome.





Acts 28:16a

And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard:



Acts 28:16b

...but Paul was suffered [permitted] to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him.



Acts 28:17-31: Paul in Rome

It is interesting that after Luke gave such a detailed description of the difficult journey to Rome, Paul's testimony before Caesar is not presented.



Acts 28:17-31: Paul in Rome

Instead, the Book of Acts closes with Paul's testimony to the Jews in Italy, people who knew nothing about Paul's troubles in Jerusalem, but wanted to hear more about Christianity.

Acts 28:17-20

¹⁷ And it came to pass, that after three days Paul called the chief of the Jews together:
and when they were come together, he said unto them,
Men *and* brethren, though I have committed nothing against the people, or customs of our fathers, yet was I delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.

¹⁸ Who, when they had examined me, would have let *me* go, because there was no cause of death in me.

¹⁹ But when the Jews spake against *it*, I was constrained to appeal unto Caesar;
not that I had ought to accuse my nation of.

²⁰ For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see *you*, and to speak with *you*: because that for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.

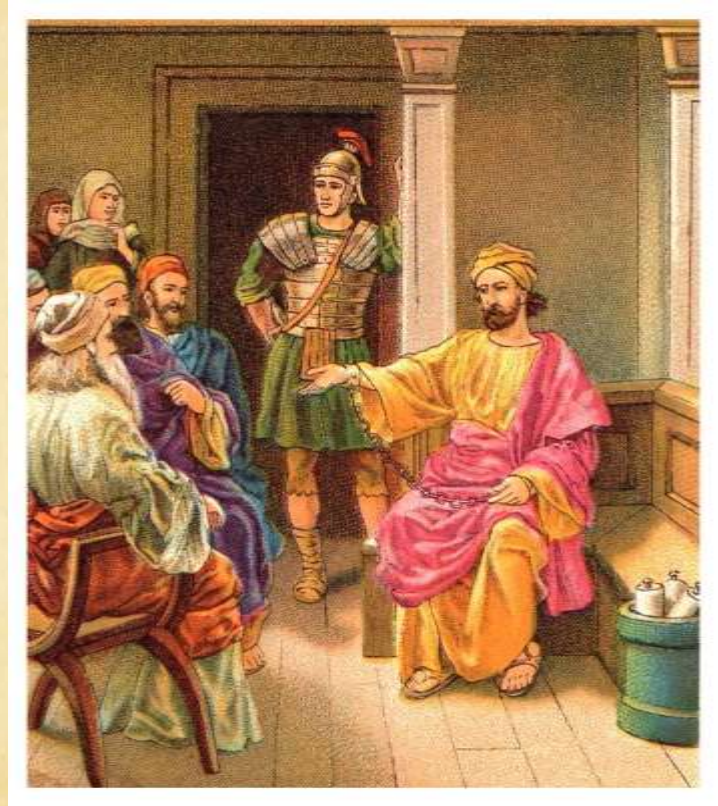


Acts 28:21-22

- ²¹ And they said unto him,
We neither received letters
out of Judaea concerning
thee, neither any of the
brethren that came shewed or
spake any harm of thee.
- ²² But we desire to hear of thee
what thou thinkest:
for as concerning this sect,
we know that every where it
is spoken against.

Acts 28:23-24

- ²³ And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into *his* lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.
- ²⁴ And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.



Acts 28:25-28

²⁵ And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers,
²⁶ Saying,

Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive:

²⁷ For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

²⁸ Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and *that* they will hear it.

Acts 28:25-28

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after that Paul had spoken one word,
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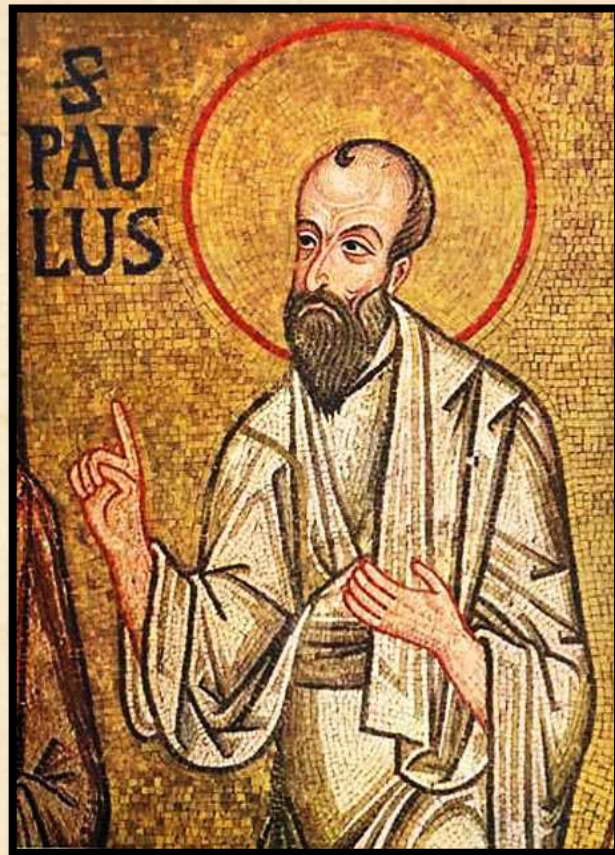
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with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

This passage from Isaiah 6:9-10 is also quoted by Jesus in Matthew 13:14-15.

Acts 28:29

And when he had said these words,
the Jews departed, and had great
reasoning among themselves.





Acts 28:30-31

- ³⁰ And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,
- ³¹ Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.



The End

Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. Where did Paul begin his journey to Rome?
2. How many ships did it take for them to get there?
3. What was the name of the "tempestuous wind" they faced?
4. Who brought Paul a message of encouragement when it seemed they would all die at sea?
5. What was the message?
6. According to Acts 27:37, how many people were aboard the second ship?
7. After the second ship was destroyed, what island did they swim to?
8. What happened to Paul on the island that made the people he was a god?
9. What other miracles happened on the island?
10. What verse from Isaiah does Paul speak to the Jews in Italy that was also spoken by Jesus? (10 points extra – What did Jesus add to the end that neither Isaiah nor Paul added?)

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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