

.....
THE BOOK OF ACTS

I Was Shipwrecked Four Times! (Acts 27-28)

Life was never smooth sailing for the Apostle Paul. In 2 Corinthians 11 he mentions some of the many perils and hardships he faced throughout his ministry. Looking back, he noted that he had been robbed, beaten, whipped, stoned, thrown into prison, and even shipwrecked - *three times!* In the closing chapters of Acts we have the record of Paul's voyage from Caesarea to Italy. *And guess what?* Along the way his ship was caught in a fierce storm and Paul was shipwrecked yet AGAIN!

In this message you will learn about the grace of God and see how His will is fulfilled through the storms of life. Paul's life was not only spared through his stormy trial, but he was also used mightily as a result of it!

THE STORM

Acts 27:9 Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, 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." 11 Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul.

- Read Acts 27:9-11. What was Paul's advice to the Centurion? _____

- Who Influenced the Centurion? _____
- What can we learn from this? _____

- Read Acts 27:21. Why is it important to obey the Apostolic writings (i.e. the New Testament Epistles)? _____

THE GRACE OF GOD

Acts 27:24 "saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.' 26 "However, we must run aground on a certain island."

- NIV: "God has graciously given you lives..."
- GNB: "God in his goodness to you has spared the lives of all those who are sailing with you."
- What does verse 26 show us about the purpose of God? _____

ON THE ISLAND OF MALTA (Acts 28)

Acts 28:1 Now when they had escaped, they then found out that the island was called Malta. 2 And the natives showed us unusual kindness; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold.

- Paul survived the storm; but look what happened to him on Malta. See verse 3. What did the islanders conclude? _____
- What did they think when he suffered no harm? _____
- How did God use Paul on Malta? _____
- **Truth about Tribulations:** We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.

PAUL ARRIVES IN ROME

Acts 28:14 where we found brethren, and were invited to stay with them seven days. And so we went toward Rome. 15 And from there, when the brethren heard about us, they came to meet us as far as Appii Forum and Three Inns. When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.

- Read Acts 28:17-31 and describe Paul's ministry in Rome: _____

FOR PERSONAL APPLICATION

- How do you usually deal with hardships and trials in your life?
- What can you learn from Paul and his fourth shipwreck?
- Has the Lord ever used a "disaster" in your life for ministry?
- How has your faith in Christ been strengthened through the trials and storms you have already faced?
- Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for being with me through all the trials I have already faced in my life. I pray that you would continue to use me for your glory and purposes."



Exploring God's Word is a ministry of Calvary Chapel Cape Town, South Africa. Scripture taken from the *New King James Version*. Copyright ©1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved. **Download our Bible Study Mp3's and Message Mates at www.calvarychapel.co.za**