



Acts: The Power of the Gospel





	Week	Topic
1	6/07/2026	Introduction to Acts/Review Chapters 1-14 Chapter 15: Jerusalem Council
2	6/14/2026	Chapter 16: 2 nd Missionary Journey: Philippi
3	6/21/2026	Chapter 17: Thessalonica, Athens
4	6/28/2026	Chapter 18: Corinth, Returning to Antioch
5	7/05/2026	July 4 th Weekend
6	7/12/2026	Chapter 19: 3 rd Missionary: Paul at Ephesus Chapter 20: Journey to Greece
7	7/19/2026	Chapter 21: Paul returns to Jerusalem
8	7/26/2026	Chapter 22: Paul Addresses Jerusalem Mob
9	8/02/2026	Chapter 23: Plot against Paul
10	8/09/2026	Chapter 24: Paul accused of Seditious
11	8/16/2026	Chapter 25: Paul appeals to Ceasar
12	8/23/2026	Chapter 26: Paul testimony before Agrippa II
13	8/30/2026	Chapter 27: Paul sent to Rome Chapter 28: Paul's ministry on Malta and Rome

1





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For You



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Acts 18: 'I Have Many People in This City' - Paul in Corinth, Gallio & Apollos
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2



Review of Acts 26

- Paul is before Agrippa and Bernice
- Paul permitted to speak tells his story
- How he persecuted Christians
- His vision of Jesus
- His mission to the Gentiles
- He offers Salvation to his audience
- Festus rejects
- Agrippa says: "You almost persuade me to become a Christian"
- Paul's appeal to Ceaser is moved forward

3

Chapter 27: Paul's Voyage to Rome



4



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Acts 27:1-2

1 And when it was decided that we should sail **for Italy**, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to a **centurion** of the **Augustan Cohort** named Julius.

2 And embarking in a ship of Adramyttium, which was about to sail to the **ports along the coast** of Asia, we put to sea, accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica.

5



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Acts 27:3-4

3 The next day we put in at Sidon. And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him leave to go to his friends and be cared for.

4 And putting out to sea from there we sailed under the lee of Cyprus, because the winds were against us.

6



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ALEXANDRIA GRAIN SHIP (navis oneraria)
Capacity: 300+ passengers + crew + grain



SMALLER COASTAL SAILING SHIPS (onerariae parvae)
Typically 20-50 passengers + coastal cargo



Acts 27:5-6

5 And when we had sailed across the open sea along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to **Myra in Lycia**.

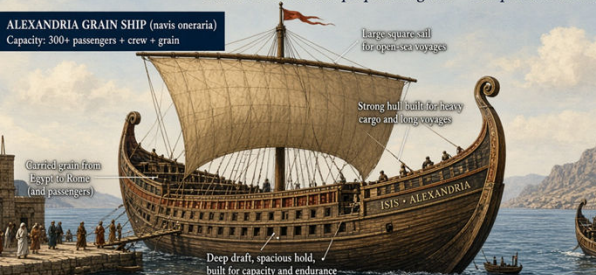
6 There the centurion found a **ship of Alexandria** sailing for Italy and put us on board.

7

THE LARGER ROMAN GRAIN SHIP FROM ALEXANDRIA

Could hold over 300 people and grain • Compared to smaller coastal sailing ships

ALEXANDRIA GRAIN SHIP (navis oneraria)
Capacity: 300+ passengers + crew + grain



SMALLER COASTAL SAILING SHIPS (onerariae parvae)
Typically 20-50 passengers + coastal cargo



“ When we had crossed over the sea off Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra in Lycia. There the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing for Italy and put us on board.”
– Acts 27:5-6

ALEXANDRIA GRAIN SHIP

- Length: ~40-55 m (130-180 ft)
- Beam: ~12-15 m (40-50 ft)
- Capacity: 300+ people + crew + hundreds of tons of grain
- Built for open-sea voyages and heavy cargo
- Example: Ships like the “Isis” mentioned by Lucian



TRANSFER AT MYRA (LYCIA)

According to Acts 27:5-6, the prisoners were transferred from smaller coastal ships to the larger Alexandrian grain ship at Myra, continuing their journey to Italy.

SMALLER COASTAL SHIPS

- Length: ~15-25 m (50-80 ft)
- Capacity: 20-50 passengers + coastal cargo
- Used for short coastal routes
- Shallower draft, smaller hold, suited for sheltered waters

8

ROMAN GRAIN SHIP FROM ALEXANDRIA

IN PAUL'S DAY (ACTS 27)

A reconstruction of a 1st-century AD Alexandrian grain ship



SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT (ACTS 27)
Paul was transported from Caesarea to Rome on an Alexandrian grain ship (v. 6). The ship carried wheat from Egypt and 276 people (v. 37). After a storm, it was shipwrecked on Malta (v. 39-44).
*Reconstruction based on historical, archaeological, and textual evidence.

SIZE (APPROXIMATE)
Length: 40–45 m (130–150 ft)
Beam: 12–14 m (39–46 ft)
Depth (hold): 5–6 m (16–20 ft)
*Typical of large 1st-century grain ships (navis oneraria) plying the Egypt-Italy route.

CAPACITY
Cargo: 250–350 tonnes of wheat (enough to feed ~1,000 people for a year)
Passengers & Crew: Up to 300+ (276 passengers/crew in Acts 27:37)
Tonnage: ~1,000–1,500 tons burden (ancient measure)

FEATURES

- Grain cargo stored in bulk in the hold, loaded at Alexandria's harbor.
- Raised stern with cabins for the captain, officers, and important passengers.
- Single large square sail (artemon) with a smaller topsail for long-distance voyaging.
- Strong hull with mortise-and-tenon planking, reinforced for heavy cargo.
- Steered with two large side rudders (one visible here on the starboard side).

TYPICAL ROUTE

 Alexandria → Puteoli (near Rome)
 ~2,000 nautical miles (3,700 km)
 Voyage time: 30–60+ days depending on winds.
 These ships were the lifeline of Rome's grain supply from Egypt.

DIMENSIONS VISUAL GUIDE

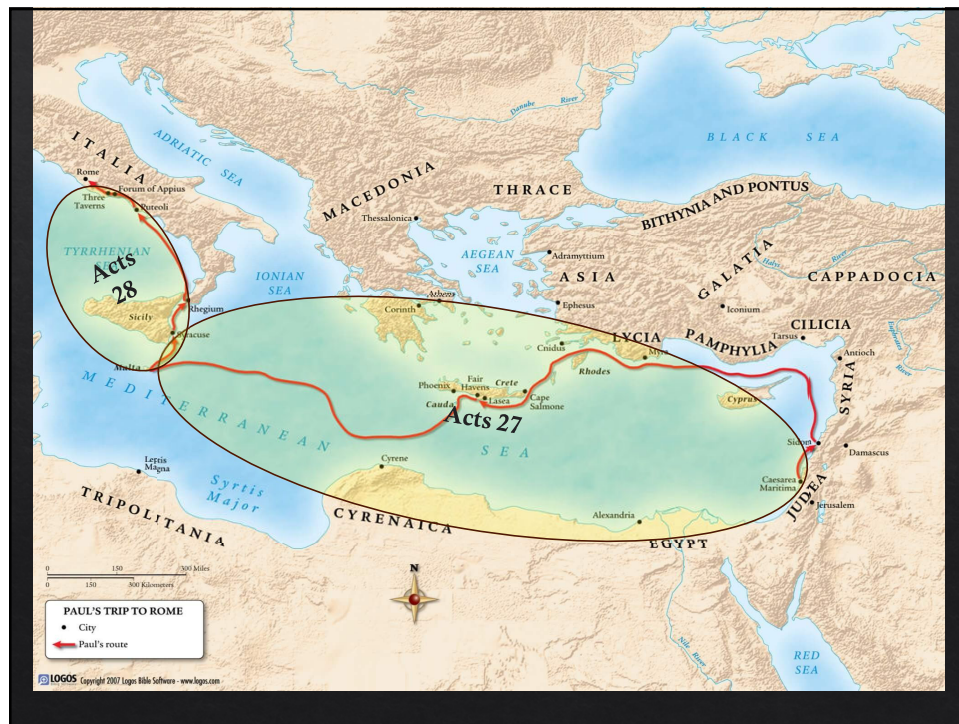
 ~40–45 m (130–150 ft)
 ~12–14 m (39–46 ft)
 ~5–6 m (16–20 ft)

CARGO & PASSENGERS
 Primarily wheat from Egypt for Rome's annona (grain dole).
 Passengers included soldiers, prisoners, merchants, and travelers.
 In Acts 27, the ship carried 276 people when it left Fair Havens.
 

9



10



11

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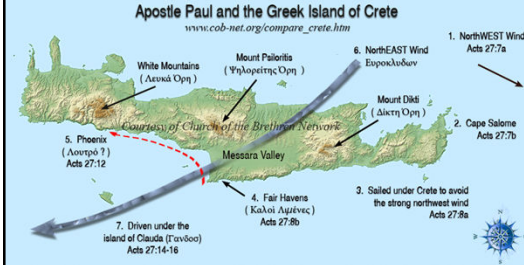
Acts 27:7-8

7 We sailed slowly for a number of days and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, and as the wind did not allow us to go farther, we sailed under the lee of Crete off Salmone.

8 Coasting along it with difficulty, we came to a place called **Fair Havens**, near which was the city of **Lasea**.

Apostle Paul and the Greek Island of Crete

www.cob-net.org/compare_crete.htm



1. NorthWEST Wind Acts 27:7a
2. Cape Salmone Acts 27:7b
3. Sailed under Crete to avoid the strong northwest wind Acts 27:8a
4. Fair Havens (Καλοί Αγκυραί) Acts 27:8b
5. Phoenix (Λαυρεό ?) Acts 27:12
6. NorthEAST Wind Επικουλονδων
7. Driven under the island of Claudia (Γρανόσο) Acts 27:14-16

12



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Acts 27:9-10

9 Since much time had passed, and the voyage was now dangerous because even the Fast was already over, Paul advised them,

10 saying, “Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives.”

Kaloi Limenes - Good Haven

13



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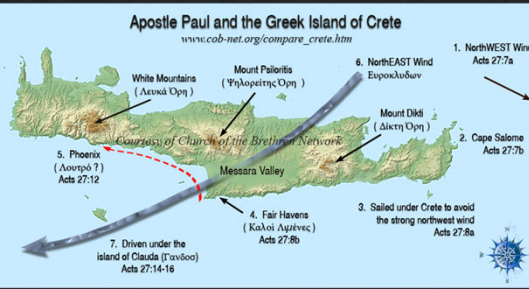


Acts 27:11-12

11 But the centurion paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul said.

12 And because the harbor was not suitable to spend the winter in, the majority decided to put out to sea from there, on the chance that somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, facing both southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there.

Apostle Paul and the Greek Island of Crete
www.cob-net.org/compare_crete.htm

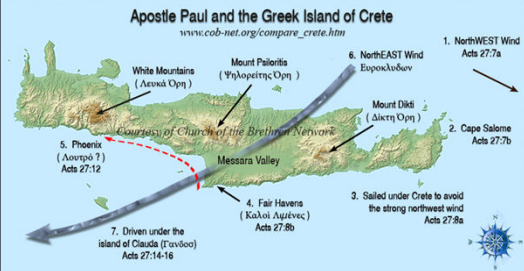


14



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Acts 27:13-14

13 Now when the **south wind blew gently**, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, close to the shore.

14 But **soon a tempestuous wind**, called the northeaster, struck down from the land.



15



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Acts 27:15-16

15 And when the ship was caught and could not face the wind, we gave way to it and were driven along.

16 Running under the lee of a small island called Cauda, we managed with difficulty to secure the ship's boat.

16



17



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Acts 27:17-18

17 After hoisting it up, they used supports to undergird the ship. Then, fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis, **they lowered the gear**, and thus they were driven along.

18 Since **we were** violently storm-tossed, they began **the next day to jettison** the cargo.

18

God Uses Storms to Get our Attention



Jonah and the Sea

Jonah 1:3,15-17

But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

15 So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.

16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

17 And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.



19

God Uses Storms



Peter and the Sea

Matthew 14:22-31

22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

24 but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, **beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them.**

25 And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea.



20

God Uses Storms to Get our Attention



Peter and the Sea

Matthew 14:22-31

26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear.

27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "**Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.**"

28 And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.

30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me."

31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "**O you of little faith, why did you doubt?**"



21



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Acts 27:19-20

19 And **on the third day** they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.

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.**

22



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Acts 27:21-22

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



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Acts 27:23-24

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.’

24



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Acts 27:25-26

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.**”

25



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Acts 27:27-28

27 When **the fourteenth night had come**, as we were being driven across the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors suspected that they were nearing land.

28 So they took a sounding and found twenty fathoms. A little farther on they took a sounding again and found fifteen fathoms.

26



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Acts 27:29-30

29 And fearing that we might run on the rocks, they let down four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come.

30 And as **the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship**, and had lowered **the ship's boat into the sea under pretense of laying out anchors** from the bow,

27



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Acts 27:31-33

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 ship's boat and let it go.

33 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.

28



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Acts 27:34-35

34 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.”

35 And when he had said these things, **he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it** and began to eat.

29



Acts: The Power of the Gospel



So Paul broke bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of them all, he broke it and began to eat. There were 276 of us on the ship.
ACTS 27:35-36



Acts 27:36-38

36 Then **they all were encouraged** and ate some food themselves.

37 (**We** were in all 276 persons in the ship.)

38 And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, **throwing out the wheat into the sea.**

30



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Acts 27:39-40

39 Now when it was day, they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a bay with a beach, on which they planned if possible to run the ship ashore.

40 So they cast off the anchors and left them in the sea, at the same time loosening the ropes that tied the rudders. Then hoisting the foresail to the wind they made for the beach.

31



Acts: The Power of the Gospel



Acts 27:41-44

41 But striking a reef, they ran the vessel aground. The bow stuck and remained immovable, and the stern was being broken up by the surf.

42 **The soldiers' plan was to kill** the prisoners, lest any should swim away and escape.

32



Acts: The Power of the Gospel



Acts 27:43-44

43 But the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan.

He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land, 44 and the rest on planks or on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.