



Safe All Through The Storms

“Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me” (Acts 27:25).

Bulletin VCAT82

02 July 2025

“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. 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; 28 And sounded, and found it twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little further, they sounded again, and found it fifteen fathoms. 29 Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day. 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. 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. 37 And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls. 38 And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, and cast out the wheat into the sea. 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. 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. 42 And

“Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island” (Acts 27:26).

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. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.” (Acts 27:25-44).


Introduction:

Beloved, we find ourselves today in a world tossed with tempests - storms of confusion, fear, economic trouble, and spiritual drought. The Apostle Paul's journey to Rome in Acts 27 is not merely a historic event; it is a mirror for our spiritual journey. This passage shows that even when the ship is breaking, *God is still saving*. Let us open our hearts to what the Spirit saith through this passage.

I. God's Word Stands Firm Amid Chaos

Paul's calm declaration in the face of danger reveals a soul anchored to the certainty of God's word. Earlier in the chapter, an angel assured him that though the ship would be lost, all lives would be spared - *“For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee”* (Acts 27:22-24).

Paul was assured by the Word of the Lord. God's promise was unshaken, therefore in the midst of crashing waves and failing human hope, he admonished *“Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island”* (Acts 27:26).



We too have the promises of God in Scripture. Though our circumstances may seem dire – shipwrecks, loss, uncertainty, fears, we must cling to what God has said because the word of God is sure as underpinned in these scriptures:

- *“For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.”* – Psalm 33:4
- *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”* — Matthew 24:35
- *“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent...”* — Numbers 23:19

II. Obedience is Key to Deliverance / Survival

Paul warns the centurion when some sailors attempt to flee, that their survival was tied to obedience to divine instruction - not only to maritime logic - *“Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.”* (Acts 27:31). God had made a way of salvation, but they had to remain in His plan.

Many seek shortcuts or worldly means of escape in times of trouble - wealth, escapism, false doctrines. But salvation and safety are found in staying within God's appointed vessel - the Church, Christ, the Word. Obedience to God's voice and counsel - especially when it contradicts worldly wisdom is essential to spiritual safety as underlined in the following scriptures

- *“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.”* – Isaiah 1:19
- *“Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only.”* – James 1:22
- *“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”* — Proverbs 14:12
- *“Abide in me, and I in you.”* — John 15:4

III. We Must Nourish Ourselves During Crisis

Paul encourages the crew to eat after fourteen days of fasting and fear. Physical nourishment was necessary - *“Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health.”* (Acts

27:34).

How much more do we need spiritual sustenance in trials! Regular engagement with Scripture, prayer, and fellowship keeps our spiritual vitality alive even in our darkest storms.

- *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”* – Matthew 4:4
- *“Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.”* – Isaiah 35:3

IV. Courage Comes from Faith, Not Circumstance

Despite being in the eye of the storm, Paul encouraged them to eat and be of good cheer. Why? Because his confidence was not in the ship, but in the Sovereign God. *“Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat.”* (Acts 27:36)


We are called to display a supernatural calm - not because our problems are small, but because our God is great. Encouragement is a ministry every believer can offer, even when the storm hasn't yet ceased.

- *“Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”* — John 16:33
- *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me...”* — Psalm 23:4

V. God Deliverance May Come In Ways That Differ From Our Expectations

The ship was destroyed, but every soul survived - just as God promised. The loss of possessions was not the loss of purpose - *“And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.”* (Acts 27:44)

They made it - not on a whole ship, but on broken pieces. God's promise was fulfilled, but not in the way anyone expected. Sometimes, deliverance comes on the fragments of



what once was. What we lose in this life is not the measure of God's love. His preservation may not look like comfort but always reflects His care.

Your life may feel like it's breaking apart - relationships, finances, plans - but even on broken pieces, God will bring you safely through. Do not despair if your deliverance comes in a way that looks different from your expectations / desires. Meditate on these powerful scriptures.

- *"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him."* — Job 13:15
- *"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed... cast down, but not destroyed."* — 2 Corinthians 4:8–9
- "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." — Psalm 34:19
- "My strength is made perfect in weakness." — 2 Corinthians 12:9

Conclusion: Trust the Captain Of Our Salvation - Jesus

Storms may come. Ships may shatter. But God's word remains, His purposes stand, and His people are never truly lost. Let us, like Paul, be carriers of calm in a chaotic world, anchored by divine assurance.

In Acts 27, Paul is not the official captain, but he is clearly the spiritual one. He trusts not in charts or experience, but in the voice of God. The storm is fierce, but God is faithful. Never forget the divine assurance - *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee"* (Isaiah 26:3).

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith, and like Paul, be the voice of courage and faith amid a world battered by storm. No matter how fierce the wind or how broken the vessel, God will bring us safely home. **Amen.**

Take a moment to reflect on which "storm" this might speak to in your life?