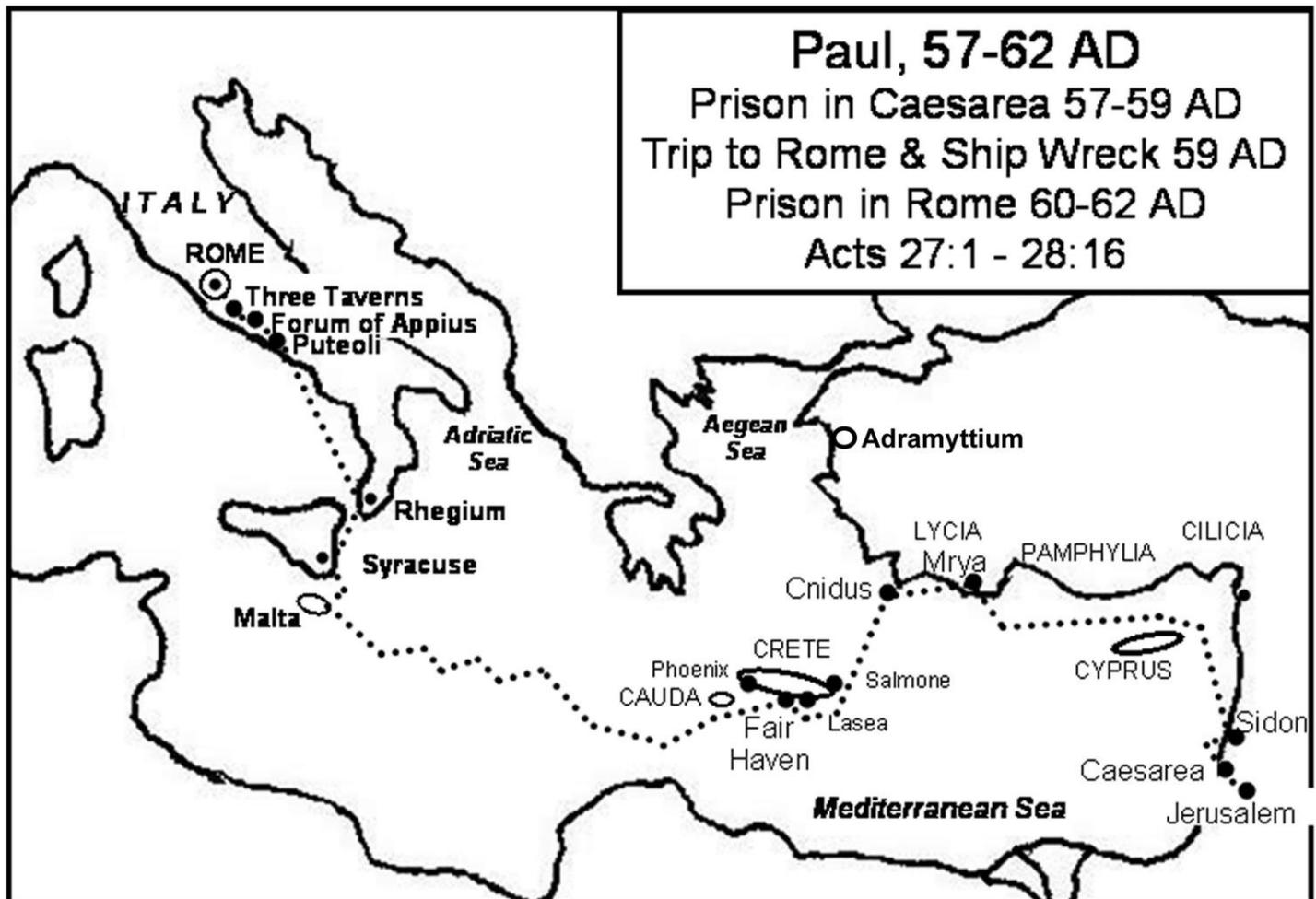


Acts 27:1-44



Luke is traveling with Paul as is Aristarchus from Thessalonica.

27:1 – We do not know how many prisoners are onboard, but when the Centurion finds and loads the second ship, an Alexandrian ship, at Mrya heading for Italy there are 276 passengers onboard. This is the ship that crashes into Malta.

27:2 –

- The Imperial Regiment is literally “the Sebastos [Augustus] cohort”.
 - Archaeologists have found two inscriptions (one in Greek, one in Latin) that refer to this same cohort or Roman Regiment.
 - This Imperial Regiment was stationed in Syria/Judea
- Adramyttium is on the west coast of Asia. There were no passenger ships in the first century so this is a small privately owned cargo vessel that is most likely headed back to Adramyttium.
- Aristarchus was one of the original members of the Gentile delegation that has remained with Paul for his two years in Caesarea. Aristarchus will be with Paul in prison in Rome and is mentioned in Colossians 4:10.

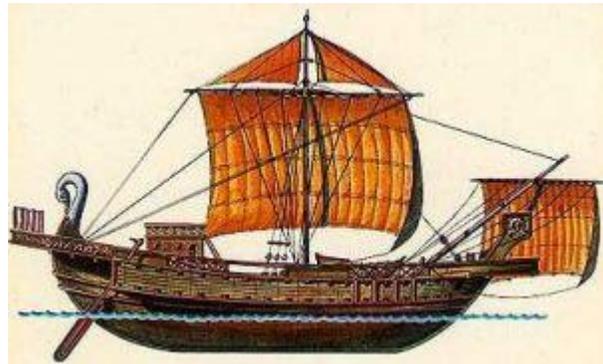
27:3 – Sidon is 70 miles north of Caesarea. One of the centurions in the Imperial Regiment was Julius who was bringing the prisoners to Rome. Julius shows “kindness” to Paul which is from the Greek word *philanthropia*. This was an important virtue or character in the Greek world which

indicated civilized behavior. Paul may have been here on one of his many trips back to Jerusalem (11:30; 12:25; 15:3). This was one of the first churches started as Jews fled persecution in Jerusalem.

27:4 – “lee” refers to the side of the island where ships are most protected from the prevailing winds.

27:5 – At Myra the ship has traveled 450-500 miles in 15 days.

27:6 – Alexandrian ship from Alexandria, Egypt would be taking Egyptian grain to Rome to feed the Roman citizens. These are a couple of examples of a grain ship sailing the route between Alexandria, Egypt and Rome, Italy.



27:7 – It is 150 miles from Myra to Cnidus

Earlier in Acts an eastern trip across the Mediterranean took 10 days. But, this same trip now going west to Rome could take 50-70 days

To gain protection from the head wind the ship is taken to the south side of Crete (lee side, or the side protected from the wind)

27:8 – The ancient village of Lasea has been located. It is five miles east of Fair Havens.

27:9 – Ancient writing confirms that:

- Sea travel in this area was dangerous from Sept. 14-Nov. 11
- Sea travel in this area was extremely dangerous from Nov. 11-March 10
- The fast is the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) which would have been October 5 in 59 AD. So, the ship arrived in Fair Havens sometime between October 10-15 59 AD
- Because this is a grain ship and because Rome often was short of grain for its loss cargo during these months if the sailors at least tried.

27:10 – Paul is not giving a prophecy, but a common sense warning based on general information and his own personal experience at sea (2 Cor. 11:15-16)

27:11 – “pilot” is *kybernetes* or “steersman” and “owner” (or, possibly the representative of the company or owner) is *naukleros*.

27:12 – A better harbor on the south side of Crete is 50 miles away

27:14 – “wind of hurricane force” is from *typhonikos* which was called a “northeaster”. “Northeaster” is from ***auraquilo***, a bilingual compound word made from the Greek *euronotos* (east wind) and Latin *Aquila* (north wind). Critical scholars claimed in the 1800’s that this word was not a real word, but a word created by the writer of Acts. But, in recent times this very word has been found on inscriptions:

- Latin inscription in city of Thugga in the proconsular Africa
- On a wind-rose inscribed on pavement that shows the names of the wind in each direction including *septentrio* (north wind) *aquilo* (northwind slightly northeast), ***euroaquilo*** (northeast wind), etc.

27:15 – Cauda is 23 miles south of Phoenix. A small island considered to be the most southerly Greek island. Today it is called Gaudos.

27:17 – The word translated “anchor” here is the same word (*skeuos*) translated sheet in Acts 10:11. So, it is possible this refers not to an anchor, but to the sails. All the sails would have been taken down at this point, except for the storm sail which allows the ship to stay steady.

27:23 – Paul explains his divine encounter in terms the Gentiles could understand, but also makes it clear it was revelation from “his God” and not Zeus, etc.

27:27 – 14th night...a study was done by interviewing sailors familiar with this part of the Mediterranean Sea. It was calculated that in this type of wind the ship would travel at about 1 ½ miles per hour. Traveling like this for 14 days would cover a distance fairly close to the 476 miles from Cauda to Malta.

27:29 – Instead of the normal anchor being dropped from the bow (front), in this case the anchors were dropped from the stern (the rear) so the ship could have drug them along until it ran aground.

27:40 – Two large paddles were attached to each side of the stern (rear). They were lifted and secured with ropes.

27:41 – “Sandbar” is the Greek word *dithalassos* which means “between two seas” or “where two seas meet”. On the northwestern portion of the island of Malta is a bay with a smaller island called Salmonetta about 100 yards off the coast. This would be a perfect location to match to Luke’s description. Today this bay is called St. Paul’s Bay.

Archaeologists have discovered 8 shipwrecks of Roman period boats in this bay. An expedition is underway to locate Paul’s ship.

27:42 – A Roman guard who allowed a prisoner to escape could be charge with the same sentence that would have been assigned to the escaped prisoner. Thus, it was better for the Roman guards to kill all the prisoners than risk the prisoner’s sentence. No one was thinking about the penalty for killing Paul, a Roman citizen without a trial...again.

A Roman anchor discovered off the coast of Malta in 2005 -



<http://www.biblearchaeology.org/post/2012/09/13/Benedicts-Anchor-Was-It-From-the-Shipwreck-of-the-Apostle-Paul-on-Malta.aspx>