

23. Paul's journey to Rome (Acts 27 to 28)

Where are we up to?



Acts 21

- Paul arrives in Jerusalem and is attacked in the temple

Acts 22-23

- Paul appears before the Sanhedrin and then sent to Caesarea

Acts 24

- Paul appears before Felix and is accused by the Jewish leaders
- Felix does nothing, hoping for a bribe. **Two years pass.**

Acts 25

- Porcius Festus replaces Felix. Paul is left in prison
- Festus hears Paul's defence in Caesarea. **Paul appeals to Caesar**

Acts 26

- King Agrippa hears Paul's defence in Caesarea



Paul's voyage to Rome as a prisoner begins

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.

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.

Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you...
(Colossians 4:10)

(Acts 27:1-2)

The last week of August 59



The next day we put in at **Sidon**.

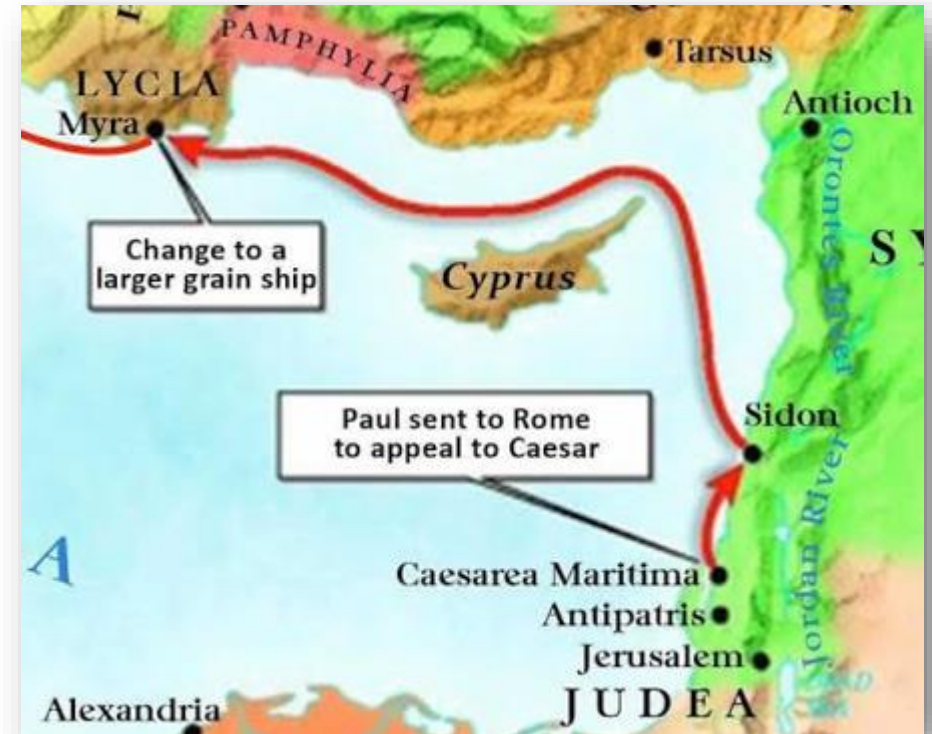
And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him leave to go to his friends and be cared for.

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

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

Sheltered by Cyprus from the wind

(Acts 27:3-5)



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

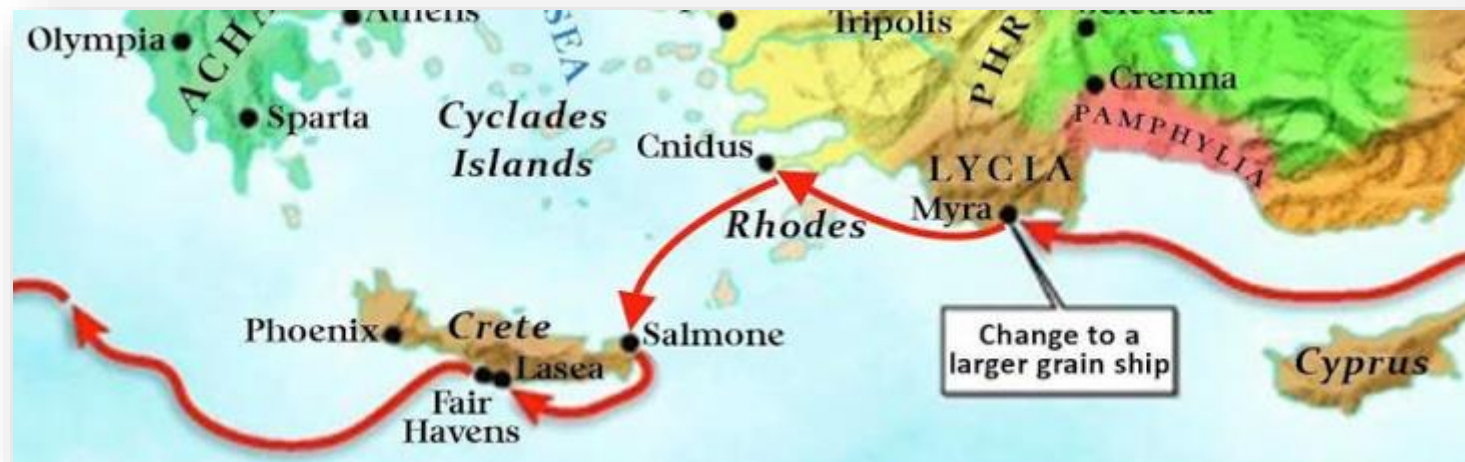
We sailed slowly for a number of days and arrived with difficulty off **Cnidus**, and as the wind did not allow us to go farther, we sailed under the lee of **Crete** off **Salmone**.

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



Fair Havens

(Acts 27:6-8)



The Fast is the Day of Atonement,
- October 5 in the year 59



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

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

(Acts 27:9-11)

Fair Havens

And because the harbour 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 harbour of **Crete**, facing both southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there.

(Acts 27:12)



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.

But soon a tempestuous wind, called the northeaster, struck down from the land. And when the ship was caught and could not face the wind, we gave way to it and were driven along.

(See Acts 27:13-15)



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

After hoisting it up, they used supports to undergird the ship.

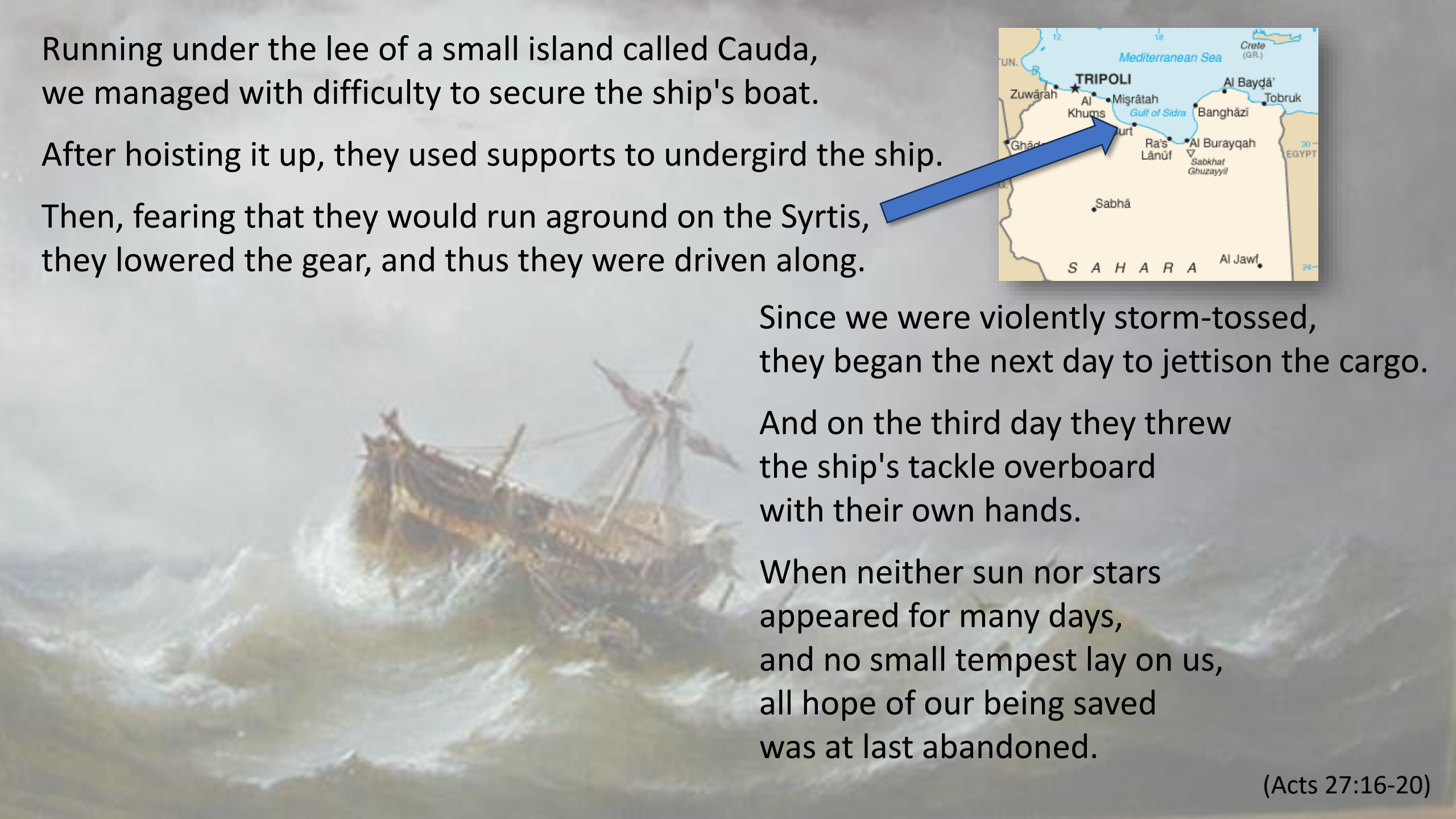
Then, fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis, they lowered the gear, and thus they were driven along.

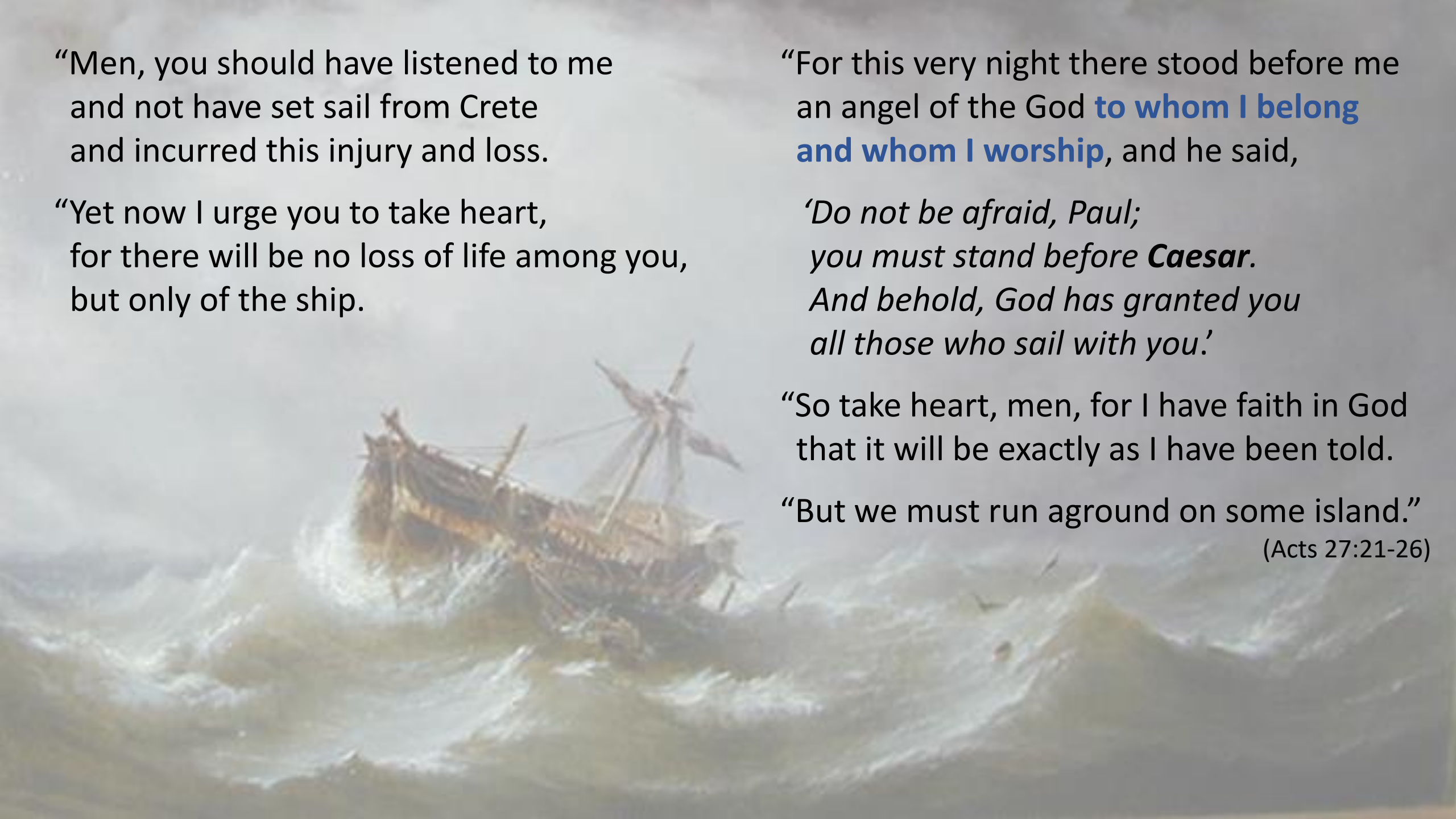


Since we were violently storm-tossed, they began the next day to jettison the cargo.

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

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.





“Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss.

“Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.

“For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God **to whom I belong and whom I worship**, 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.’*

“So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.

“But we must run aground on some island.”

(Acts 27:21-26)

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.



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

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

(Acts 27:27-29)

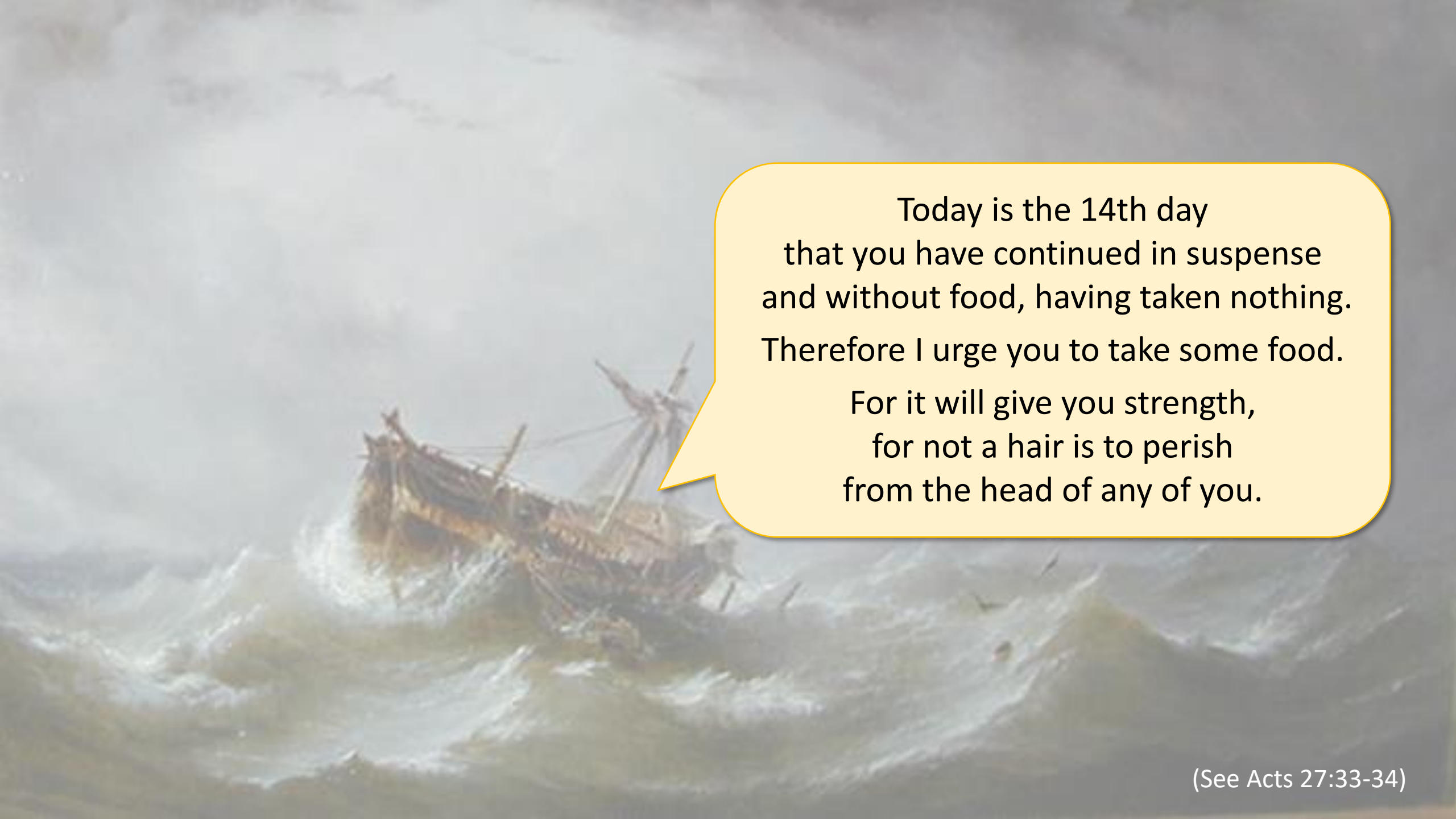
And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship,
and had lowered the ship's boat into the sea
under pretense of laying out anchors from the bow,
Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers,

Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.

Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship's boat and let it go.

(Acts 27:30-32)



A painting of a wooden ship, likely Noah's Ark, struggling in a stormy sea. The ship is tilted and surrounded by large, white-capped waves. The sky is overcast and grey. A yellow speech bubble with a black border is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing text.

Today is the 14th day
that you have continued in suspense
and without food, having taken nothing.
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.

(See Acts 27:33-34)

Paul took bread, and giving thanks to God
in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat.

Then they all were encouraged and ate some food themselves.

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

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



(See Acts 27:35-38)

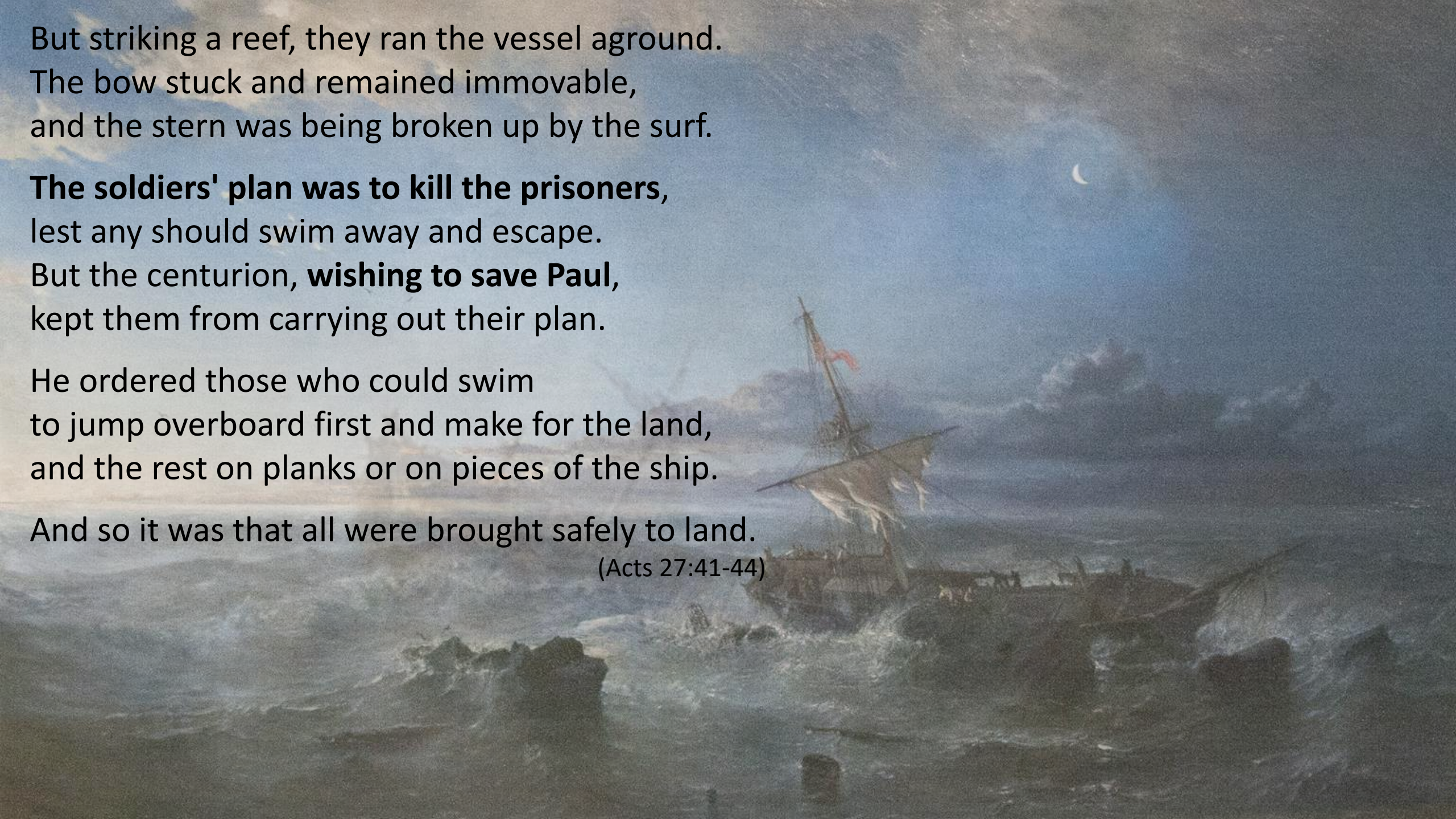
But striking a reef, they ran the vessel aground.
The bow stuck and remained immovable,
and the stern was being broken up by the surf.

The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners,
lest any should swim away and escape.
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,
and the rest on planks or on pieces of the ship.

And so it was that all were brought safely to land.

(Acts 27:41-44)





St Paul's Bay, Malta

When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand.

When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another,

*No doubt this man is a murderer.
Though he has escaped from the sea,
Justice has not allowed him to live.*

He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm.

They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead.

But when they had waited a long time and saw no misfortune come to him, **they changed their minds and said that he was a god.**



(Acts 28:3-6)

The chief
Roman official



Now in the region around that place were fields belonging to the **chief official** of the island, named **Publius**, who welcomed us and entertained us hospitably as guests for three days.

It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery.

And Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him, **healed him**.

And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and **were cured**.

They also honoured us greatly, and when we were about to sail, they put on board whatever we needed.

After three months we set sail in a ship that had wintered in the island...

February in
the year 60

(See Acts 28:7-11)

Putting in at **Syracuse**, we stayed there for **three days**.

And from there we made a circuit and arrived at **Rhegium**.

And after **one day** a south wind sprang up, and on the **second day** we came to **Puteoli**.

There we found brothers and were invited to stay with them for **seven days**.

And so we came to Rome.

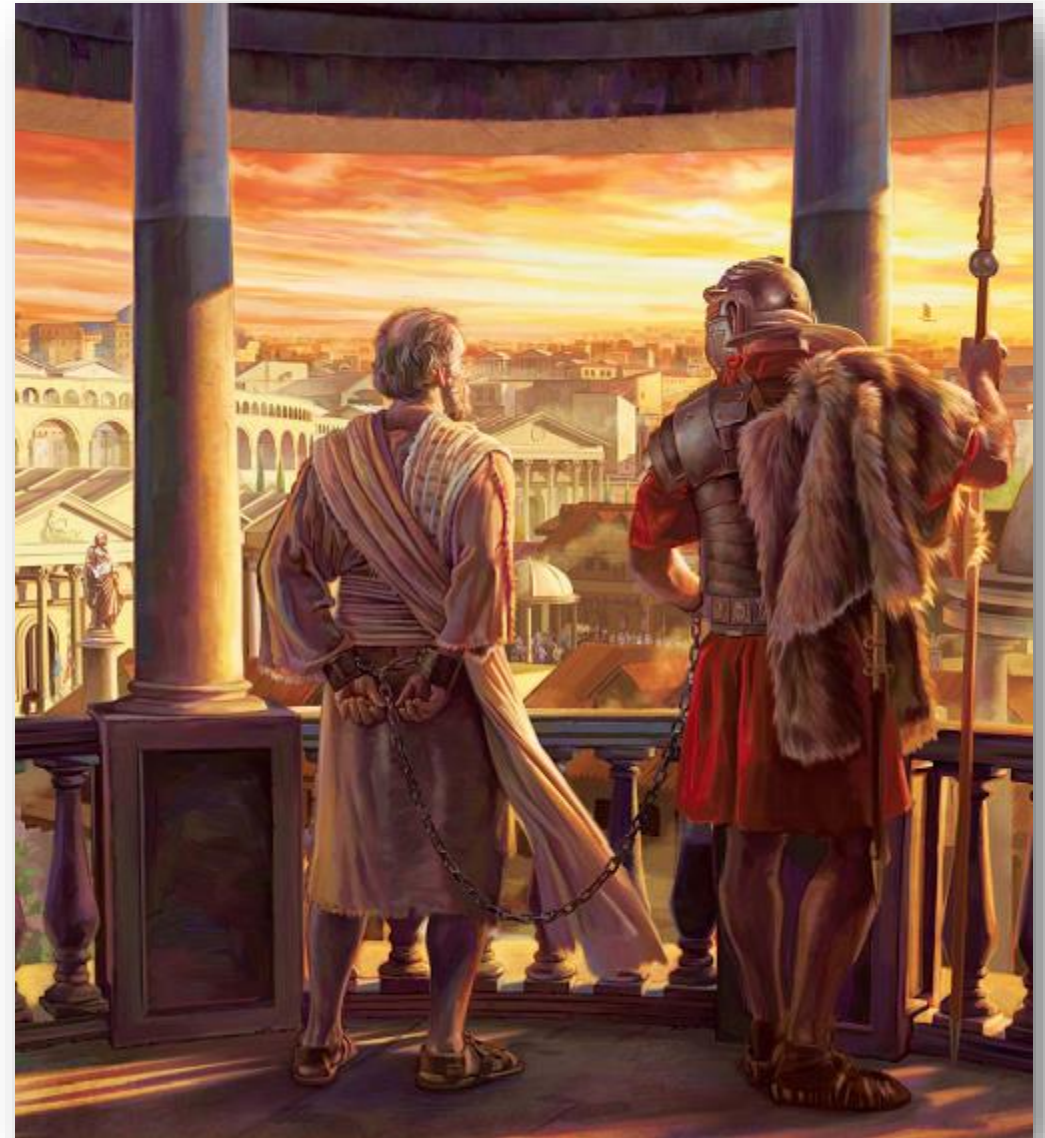
And the brothers there, when they heard about us, came as far as the **Forum of Appius** and **Three Taverns** to meet us.

On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage.

(Acts 28:12-15)



And when we came into Rome,
Paul was allowed to stay by himself,
with the soldier who guarded him.
(Acts 28:16)



For the hope of Israel
I am bound with this chain.

After three days he called together
the local leaders of the Jews...

But we desire to hear from
you what your views are,
for with regard to **this sect**
we know that everywhere
it is spoken against.

When they had appointed a day for him,
they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers.

From morning till evening he expounded to them,
testifying to **the kingdom of God** and trying to convince them about **Jesus**
both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.

And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved.

(See Acts 28:17-24)

Isaiah 6:9-10

The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet:

Go to this people, and say,

***“You will indeed hear but never understand,
and you will indeed see but never perceive.”***

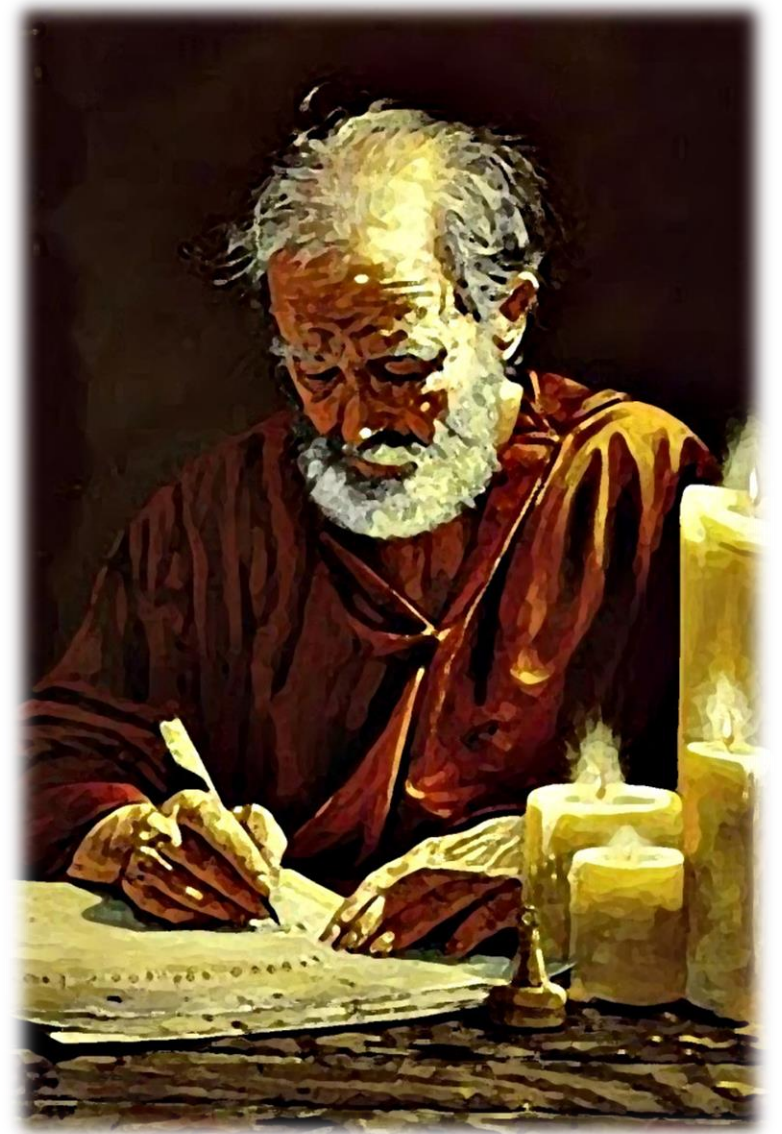
*For this people's heart has grown dull,
and with their ears they can barely hear,
and their eyes they have closed;
lest they should see with their eyes
and hear with their ears
and understand with their heart
and turn, and I would heal them.*

Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.

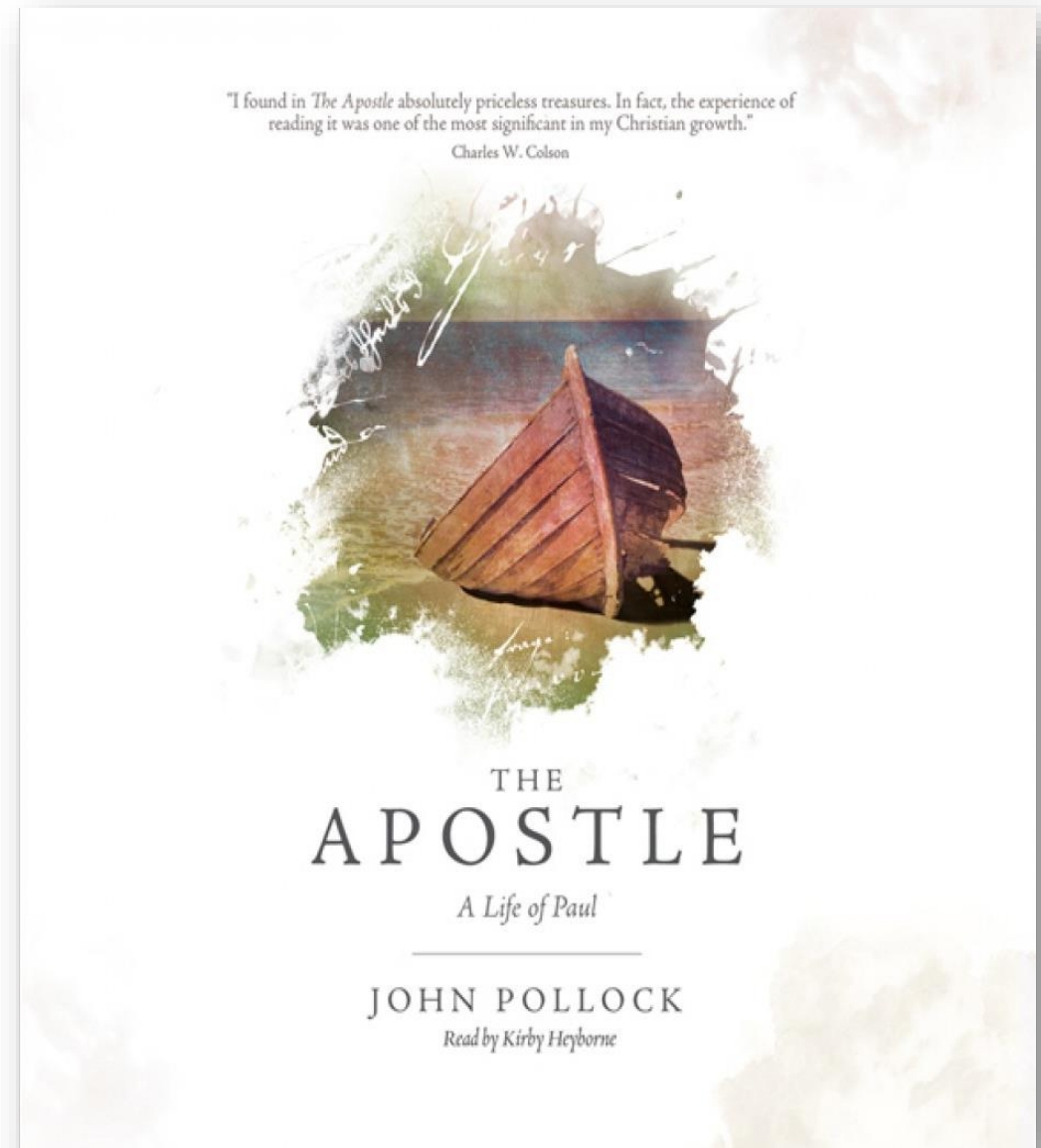
(See Acts 28:25-28)

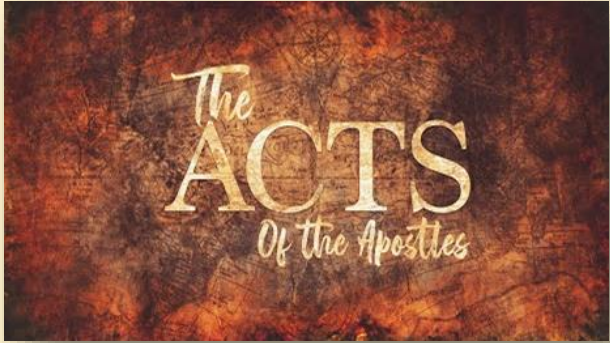
He lived there **two whole years**
in his own hired dwelling,
and welcomed all who came to him,
proclaiming **the kingdom of God**
and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ
with all boldness and without hindrance.

(Acts 28:30-31)



The Apostle by John Pollock seamlessly weaves together drama, scholarship, and historical accuracy in this book about the apostle Paul's extraordinary life.





**The End,
but just the beginning...**