



# Surviving a stormy sea

## Acts 27:14-35

<sup>14</sup> Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the "northeaster," swept down from the island. <sup>15</sup> The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. <sup>16</sup> As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure. <sup>17</sup> When the men had hoisted it aboard, they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Fearing that they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along. <sup>18</sup> We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. <sup>19</sup> On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. <sup>20</sup> When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

<sup>21</sup> After the men had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. <sup>22</sup> But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. <sup>23</sup> Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me <sup>24</sup> and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' <sup>25</sup> So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. <sup>26</sup> Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

<sup>27</sup> On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land. <sup>28</sup> They took soundings and found that the water was a hundred and twenty feet deep. A short time later they took soundings again and found it was ninety feet deep. <sup>29</sup> Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight. <sup>30</sup> In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow. <sup>31</sup> Then Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved." <sup>32</sup> So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it fall away.

<sup>33</sup> Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. "For the last fourteen days," he said, "you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food—you haven't eaten anything. <sup>34</sup> Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head." <sup>35</sup> After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat.

## A Stormy Voyage

### ► The plight of Paul the prisoner

*Acts 27:1* When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial Regiment. <sup>2</sup> We boarded a ship from Adramyttium about to sail for ports along the coast of the province of Asia, and we put out to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was with us.

### ► The stormy sea and the shaky ship

*Acts 27:13* When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. <sup>14</sup> Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the "northeaster," swept down from the island. <sup>15</sup> The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. <sup>16</sup> As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure. <sup>17</sup> When the men had hoisted it aboard, they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Fearing that they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along. <sup>18</sup> We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. <sup>19</sup> On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.

▲ **Chaos amidst the unpredictable** *Acts 27:14* a wind of hurricane force

▲ **Clashes with the unmanageable** *Acts 27:15* we gave way to the storm and were driven along

▲ **Cares and concerns over the undesirable** *Acts 27:18* We took such a violent battering from the storm

▲ **Confusion over the unknowable** *Acts 27:33* For the last fourteen days you have been in constant suspense

### ► The fear of fatal forces

*Acts 27:20* When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

▲ **Darkened vision** *Acts 27:20* When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging,

▲ **Discouraging voices** *Acts 27:20* we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

## A Supernatural Visitor

### ► The appearance of an angel

*Acts 27:23* Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me

### ► The authority of the angel

*Acts 27:23* an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve

### ► The assurance of the angel

*Acts 27:24* and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.'

▲ **You have further purpose** *Acts 27:24* You must stand trial before Caesar

▲ **You are forcefully protected** *Acts 27:24* God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.

▼ God speaks through the Scriptures  
 ▼ God speaks through the Spirit  
 ▼ God speaks through the saints  
 ▼ God sometimes speaks through supernatural strangers

## A Spirit of Victory

### ► Receive God's guarantees

*Acts 27:25* So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.

### ► Roll with God's guidance

*Acts 27:26* "Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

### ► Recognize God's good gifts

▲ **Good food** *Acts 27:35* he took some bread — Then he broke it and began to eat.

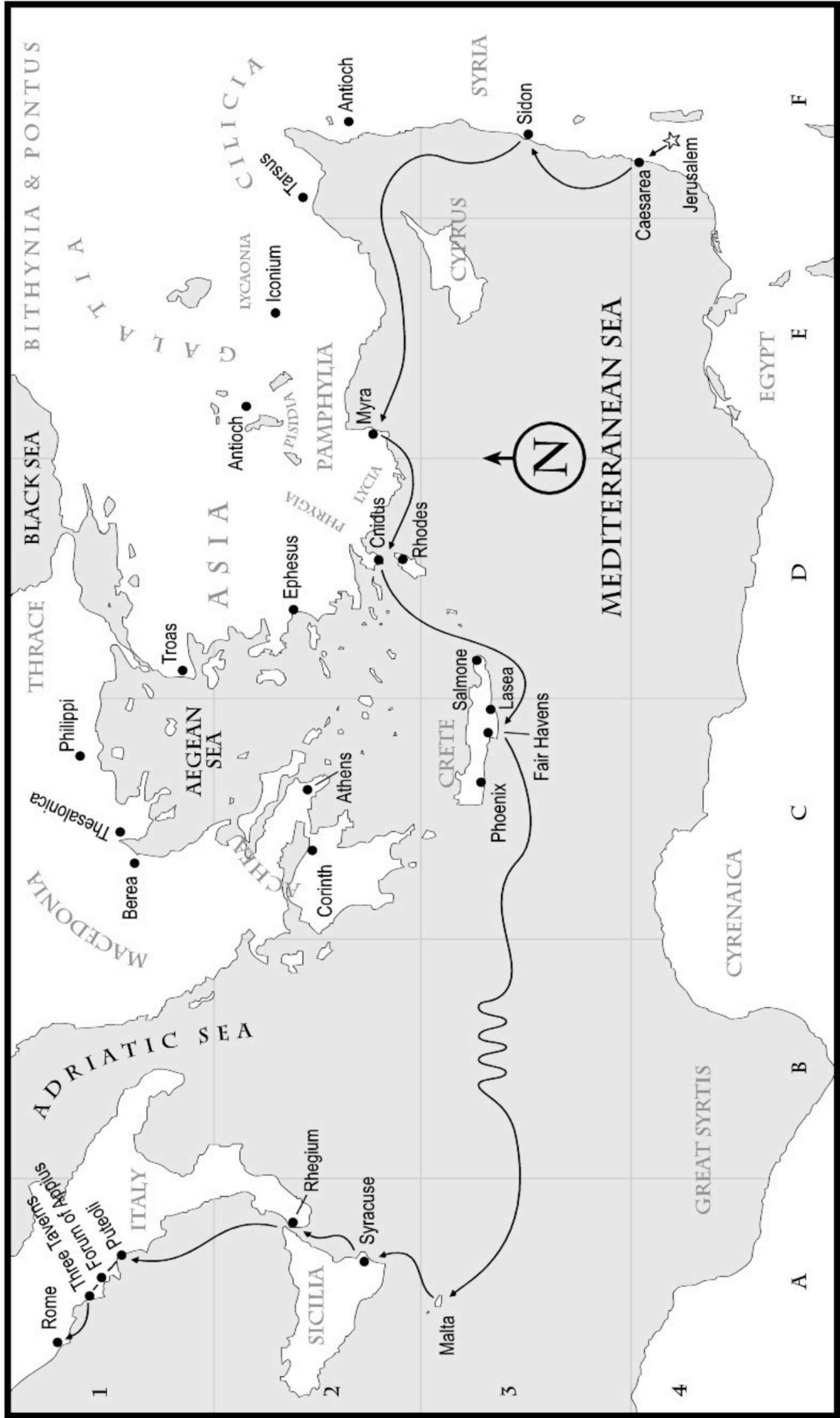
▲ **Great friends/family** *Acts 27:2* Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was with us [Luke].

▲ **Guarded future** *Acts 27:34* "Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head."

▲ **Glorious forever** *2 Timothy 4:18* The Lord will rescue me...and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom.

### ► Respond with great gratitude

*Acts 27:35* After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all.



BITHYNIA & PONTUS  
 GALATIA  
 LYCAONIA  
 CILICIA  
 SYRIA  
 THRACE  
 BLACK SEA  
 ASIA  
 PAPHLAGIA  
 PAMPHYLIA  
 PISIDIA  
 LYCIA  
 PHRYGIA  
 CHIDTUS  
 RHODES  
 MYRA  
 ANTIQCH  
 ICONIUM  
 TARSUS  
 SYDQN  
 CAESAREA  
 JERUSALEM  
 EGYPT  
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 MACEDONIA  
 AEGEAN SEA  
 PHOENIX  
 SALMONE  
 LASEA  
 FAIR HAVENS  
 CRETE  
 ATHENS  
 CORINTH  
 BEROEA  
 THESSALONICA  
 PHILIPPI  
 TROAS  
 EPHESUS  
 CYRENAICA  
 GREAT SYRTIS  
 A  
 B  
 C  
 ADRIATIC SEA  
 ITALY  
 SICILIA  
 RHEGIUM  
 SYRACUSE  
 MALTA  
 ROME  
 THREE TAVERNS  
 FORUM OF APPIUS  
 PUTEOLI  
 1  
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 3  
 4