

**"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan****ACTS 27****Acts 27**

Paul makes his appeal to Caesar, and this was God's way of fulfilling His word to Paul that He would **"testify in Rome"** of the gospel of Jesus, just as he had in other places in his missionary endeavors. The time of the year the ship left Caesarea was not the best time of the year to sail the Mediterranean. Remember, the Mediterranean is a true sea, non-tidal. The waters of the Mediterranean come in from the Atlantic at the "Straits of Gibraltar," where the continents of Europe and Africa are only separated by a few miles. The waters then circulate around northern Africa, **circling counterclockwise** around the coasts of Israel, Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey, respectively. Between the western coast of Turkey and the eastern coast of Greece, the Aegean flows via the Bosphorus River from the Black Sea into the Mediterranean basin. The Adriatic, or Ionian Sea, separates Greece and Italy and joins the Mediterranean, and the counterclockwise current continues to skirt the southern coast of the European continent and back out to the Atlantic off the coast of Spain. In the middle of the Mediterranean, a vortex is formed that is like the eye of a hurricane, and there is no wind. This phenomenon in the wide center or eye of the Mediterranean is called "the doldrums."

The Apostle Paul warned those in charge of the ship not to sail, but they were determined to find a better port to spend the winter. The decision to disregard Paul's warning and the following disaster was met with Paul's words to those on-board ship to now listen to him, as God had spoken to him and assured Him that he and all on board would be saved if they heeded Paul's warnings going forward.

***"Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss. And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed, has granted you all those who sail with you.' Therefore, take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. However, we must run aground on a certain island."*** (Acts 27:21-26)

The close of Acts 27 ends in a shipwreck but details God's miraculous deliverance of all on board the ship, as Paul had said.

ON THE WAY

**Prayer and Action Steps**

*The Apostle Paul gave all who would follow Jesus a template of how to effectively witness to those who are unbelievers. Paul knew his responsibility was to tell the story; it was God's business to change the heart. The "Successful Witness" is the person who shares the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaves the results of that witness to God. God is the heart changer, not us!*