BELIEVERS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP April 6, 2014

Lesson No.32

The Voyage to Rome Acts 27:1-44

- The Providence of God
- The Persistence of Paul
- The Protection of Passengers



Key Verse: Acts 27:22 And Now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.

ntroduction: Luke gives a lengthy account of Paul's voyage from Caesarea to Rome. There is no easy answer as to why Luke shares so many details. However, there are at least three important principles that can be drawn from this account: Providence, Persistence and Protection.

- Certain Other Prisoners: vv.1-2 How many other prisoners accompanied Paul to Rome is an unanswered question. The "we" indicates that Luke and Aristarchus accompanied Paul to be his helper. The first "we" section: Lesson No.17. Acts 16:10
- Julius the Centurion: Julius belonged to the Imperial Regiment "an honorary title" A centurion commanded 100 soldiers. Julius and Lysias showed kindness to Paul.

1. The Providence of God: God's hand over nature, individuals and nations of the world. It is God's care for each part in relation to the whole. Ephesians 1:11

- The Decrees of God: His eternal plan by which He has rendered certain, all the events of the universe, past, present and future.
- The nature of God's Decrees: Romans 11:36 (1) Of Him: "everything came from God" (2) Through Him: "everything that happens is by His agency and instrumentality" (3) For Him: "to His glory is the ultimate aim"

2. The Persistence of Paul: vv.3-5 God's sovereign protection and direction in Paul's ministry. It was God's will for the apostle to minister the gospel in Rome. Sidon was the ship's first port of call after leaving Caesarea. Julius gave Paul liberty to visit with his friends and to refresh.

3. The Protection of Passengers: vv.6-13 The Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy. This was a *"grain ship"* large enough to carry 276 passengers.

- Hurricane Euroclydon: vv.14-21 Paul was permitted to advise the sailors because of his experience in travel "three times I was shipwrecked" 2 Corinthians 11:25
- Be of Good Cheer: vv.22-32 "to keep up courage" and "be of good cheer" "be not afraid" Acts 23:11; Matthew 14:27 Paul made known his faith in God during the storm
- Breaking Bread: vv.33-38 "a meal to refuel the body" see Lesson No.27

APPLICATION: The Voyage to Capernaum. SSS Series, Lesson No.8 read more