

THE BOOK OF ACTS | GOD'S REVELATION OF TRANSITION

SESSION 79 | ACTS 27:9-10

ACTS 27:9-20 | JOURNEY TO ROME: THE SHIPWRECK, PART 1

- Verse 9 –
 - The fact that Luke mentions that **sailing was now dangerous** will shed light on Paul's perception of verse 10.
 - Luke gives an almost precise date when he says that **the fast was now already past**.
 - This means it must have been beyond the tenth day of the seventh month on the Hebrew calendar, for that is the day of **the fast**.
 - In actuality, the Torah never gives a command to fast on a certain day. However, Leviticus 23:27 says that on this day **ye shall afflict your souls**.
 - Since the Jewish people did not know exactly what this meant, their rabbis determined that the people should fast on that day, which is the Day of Atonement.
- Verse 10 –
 - Was Paul's perception that the voyage would **be with hurt and much damage** a supernatural perception, or is this simply "the voice of experience?" Because of Luke's comment in verse 9 about the season being **now dangerous**, it seems to me that no supernatural giftedness or insight is necessary to understand this verse.
 - Christians should celebrate the perception God has allowed man to develop.
 - The best celebration would be to encourage such "insight" to be honored in the Christian community.
 - Those with the most perception are typically those with the most experience who ALSO avoid the pitfalls of experience, as the next verse attests.
- Verse 11 –
 - It is hard to fault the centurion for believing the accomplished seaman over Paul.
 - This reminds us that in life, though good perception comes with good experience, there is also the risk of losing perception due to trusting one's own experiences more than the situation at hand. Thus expert advice should *always* be taken as *advice*. The stage of world history is filled with those who died following the advice of the experts.
- Verses 12-13 –
 - With the expert advice and the advice of **the more part**, along with a helpful soft wind, the ship moved onward, sailing for **Phenice** to winter there.
- Verse 14 –
 - The word **tempestuous** is **τυφωνικός** [*tuphonikos*], from which we get *typhoon*. The Greek word is used for a *whirlwind*.
 - This particular *whirlwind* had a specific name: a **Euroclydon**. From this have derived the word *hurricane*.
- Verses 15-17 –
 - The words here are so precise that one cannot come to any conclusion other than that the storm was a hurricane.

- The single word translated **bear up into** is ἀντοφθαλμέω [antophthalmeo]. One may recognize that we may go to the *ophthamologist* when we need medication for the *eye*.
 - The prefix *anti* is “against.” Thus Luke says that when the ship could not “go against the eye of the hurricane,” **we let her drive**.
 - The hurricane drove the ship south of **Clauda** where they **had much work to come by the boat** (the σκάφη [skaphe], the *skiff* or lifeboat), which was eventually used to put supporting cables **undergirding the ship** before simply being driven by the winds.
- Verses 18-20 –
 - Though it makes no doctrinal difference here, it is worthy of noting that the Bible writers certainly knew proper pronoun usage.
 - On one day, recorded in verse 18, **they lightened the ship**, presumably a remark about the ship’s crew.
 - However, **the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship**. The use of **we** and **our** stands in contrast to **they**.
 - If pronouns show difference here, wouldn’t they do the same in other places (like Ephesians 1, where the first-person pronouns of verses 3-12 are contrasted to the second person in verses 13 and following...yet this is almost always missed by commentaries and sermons, with disastrous results).
 - The results of this ordeal: the passengers (presumably inclusive of Luke, Paul, and companions) lost **all hope that we should be saved**. It looked inevitable that death at sea would be their end.
- Part 2...stay tuned!