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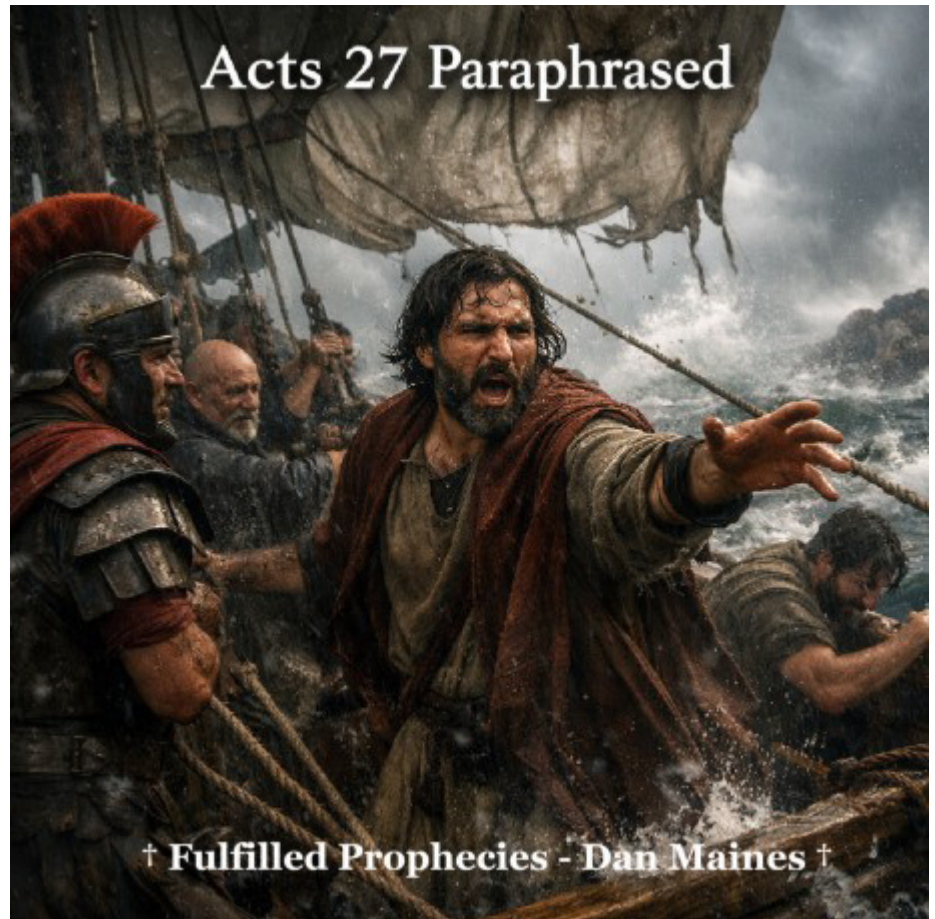
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Acts 27 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Acts 27 Paraphrased

Introduction

† This chapter shows Paul being taken to Rome through a dangerous sea journey, proving God's control over every circumstance

† It reveals that even in judgment upon that generation, God preserved His people and fulfilled His promises

† The storm and shipwreck picture the collapsing old world while the faithful are brought safely through

Acts 27:1

It was decided that we would sail to Italy, so Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a Roman officer named Julius

† Paul is now under Roman authority, yet God is still directing his path (Acts 23:11)

† The mission to Rome is not random, it's the fulfillment of Christ's word

† Even as a prisoner, Paul is exactly where God wants him

Acts 27:2

We boarded a ship from Adramyttium that was about to sail along the coast of Asia, and Aristarchus from Macedonia went with us

† God provides companions in trials, Paul is not alone

† The journey begins in ordinary means, yet leads to extraordinary events

† This shows the gospel spreading through real historical movement

Acts 27:3

The next day we landed at Sidon, and Julius treated Paul kindly and allowed him to visit friends who took care of him

† Even pagan authority shows favor, God is working behind the scenes

† Paul receives strength from the body of believers

† God provides provision in the middle of uncertainty

Acts 27:4

We put out to sea again and sailed under the shelter of Cyprus because the winds were against us

† Opposition begins early, showing the difficulty of the journey

† The winds symbolize resistance, yet they don't stop God's plan

† God guides even through indirect paths

Acts 27:5

After crossing the open sea off Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra in Lycia

† The journey continues steadily, though not easily

† Movement across regions shows the spread of God's purpose

† Rome is still the destination, nothing is stopping that

Acts 27:6

There the centurion found a ship from Alexandria sailing to Italy and put us on board

† God provides the exact vessel needed at the right time

† Even logistical details are under His control

† The mission advances through human systems

Acts 27:7

We sailed slowly for many days and struggled to reach Cnidus, then the wind wouldn't allow us to go further so we sailed under Crete

† Delay is part of God's plan, not a failure

† Resistance increases, but direction is still guided

† God redirects paths when necessary

Acts 27:8

We moved along the coast with difficulty and came to a place called Fair Havens near Lasea

† The journey becomes harder, showing growing danger

† Fair Havens becomes a temporary place of rest

† God allows pauses before major events

Acts 27:9

Much time had passed and sailing had become dangerous because the Fast was already over, so Paul warned them

† Paul discerns the danger, showing spiritual insight

† The timing connects to Jewish context, showing this is still that generation

† God's servant speaks truth even when ignored

Acts 27:10

He said the voyage would be dangerous and bring loss of cargo, ship, and lives

† Paul warns clearly, not vaguely

† God reveals what is coming, but people still choose

† This mirrors the warnings given before Jerusalem's fall

Acts 27:11

But the centurion trusted the pilot and owner of the ship more than Paul

† Human wisdom is preferred over God's word

† Authority doesn't guarantee truth

† This leads directly to disaster

Acts 27:12

Since the harbor wasn't suitable for winter, most decided to sail on, hoping to reach Phoenix

† Majority opinion doesn't equal correctness

† Comfort and convenience drive decisions

† This reflects Israel rejecting prophetic warnings

Acts 27:13

A gentle south wind began to blow, so they thought they had achieved their plan and set sail

† False security often precedes judgment

† What looks favorable can be deceptive

† This is the calm before the storm

Acts 27:14

But before long a violent wind called a northeaster swept down from the island

† Sudden judgment interrupts human plans

† The storm represents unstoppable force

† God overturns their confidence instantly

Acts 27:15

The ship was caught and couldn't face the wind, so we gave way and were driven along

† Control is lost, showing human helplessness

† The storm dictates everything now

† This mirrors the coming destruction of that age

Acts 27:16

We ran under a small island and managed to secure the lifeboat with difficulty

† Effort continues, but struggle increases

† Survival measures begin

† The situation is escalating rapidly

Acts 27:17

They used ropes to hold the ship together and lowered the gear, fearing they would run aground

† Human attempts to hold things together begin to fail

† Fear now replaces confidence

† This reflects the collapsing old covenant system

Acts 27:18

The storm was so violent that the next day they began throwing cargo overboard

† Loss begins, showing cost of ignoring truth

† What was once valuable is now discarded

† Judgment strips away security

Acts 27:19

On the third day they threw the ship's equipment overboard

† Desperation increases

† Everything is sacrificed for survival

† This shows total breakdown

Acts 27:20

For many days no sun or stars appeared, and the storm

continued, and all hope was lost

† Darkness represents complete despair

† Human hope disappears without God

† This is the lowest point before divine intervention

Acts 27:21

After they had gone without food, Paul stood up and reminded them they should have listened

† Truth is now undeniable

† Paul speaks with authority proven by events

† God's word stands firm

Acts 27:22

He told them not to lose heart because no one would die, only the ship would be lost

† God preserves life even in judgment

† The vessel perishes, but people are saved

† This reflects the passing of the old system

Acts 27:23

He said an angel of God stood beside him that night

† Divine assurance enters the crisis

† God speaks directly to His servant

† Heaven is involved in earthly events

Acts 27:24

The angel told him he must stand before Caesar and that God had granted safety to all with him

† God's promise governs the outcome

† Others are saved because of Paul

† God's mercy extends beyond believers

Acts 27:25

Paul told them to take courage because he believed God and it would happen as told

† Faith stands firm in chaos

† Confidence is rooted in God's word

† This is the model of trust

Acts 27:26

He said they would run aground on an island

† Deliverance doesn't remove hardship

† God reveals the outcome but not every detail

† The plan includes both loss and rescue

Acts 27:27

On the fourteenth night they were still being driven across the sea when sailors sensed land

† The long trial continues

† Signs of hope begin to appear

† God brings them closer to deliverance

Acts 27:28

They measured the depth and found it getting shallower

† Confirmation of approaching land

† The end of the storm is near

† God is guiding even unseen

Acts 27:29

Fearing rocks, they dropped anchors and prayed for daylight

† Fear leads to dependence

† Even unbelievers turn to prayer

† Darkness is about to give way to light

Acts 27:30

Some sailors tried to escape in the lifeboat pretending to lower anchors

† Self-preservation overrides unity

† Deception appears in crisis

† Not all trust God's word

Acts 27:31

Paul told the centurion that unless the sailors stayed, no one

would survive

- † Obedience to God's instruction is required
- † Human action still matters within God's plan
- † This prevents disaster

Acts 27:32

The soldiers cut the ropes and let the lifeboat fall away

- † They act on Paul's warning
- † Trust begins to shift toward God's word
- † Unity is restored

Acts 27:33

Before daylight Paul urged everyone to eat, saying they hadn't eaten for two weeks

- † Physical strength is needed for survival
- † God cares about practical needs
- † Preparation is part of deliverance

Acts 27:34

He told them to eat because not a hair of their head would be lost

- † Assurance is complete
- † God's promise includes detail
- † This echoes divine protection

Acts 27:35

He took bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and began to eat

- † Paul leads by example
- † Thanksgiving in crisis shows true faith
- † This reflects trust in God's provision

Acts 27:36

Everyone was encouraged and ate

- † Faith spreads to others
- † Courage replaces fear
- † Leadership matters in crisis

Acts 27:37

There were 276 people on board

† A large number preserved by God's promise

† This shows the scale of deliverance

† Every life mattered

Acts 27:38

After eating enough, they lightened the ship by throwing grain into the sea

† Final preparation for survival

† Letting go of cargo ensures life

† Earthly things are secondary

Acts 27:39

When daylight came they saw land but didn't recognize it, so they planned to run the ship aground

† Deliverance is visible now

† They move forward with the plan

† God brings them to safety

Acts 27:40

They cut the anchors, loosened the rudders, and raised the sail toward shore

† Final action toward rescue

† They commit fully to the plan

† Faith moves forward

Acts 27:41

The ship struck a sandbar and ran aground, the bow stuck and the stern broke apart

† The ship is destroyed as foretold

† The vessel fails, but lives are preserved

† This is the end of the journey

Acts 27:42

The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent escape

- † Fear leads to harsh decisions
- † Authority seeks control
- † Human instinct turns destructive

Acts 27:43

But the centurion wanted to spare Paul and stopped them, ordering everyone to swim to shore

- † God preserves His servant
- † Authority is redirected by divine influence
- † Life is protected

Acts 27:44

The rest followed on planks or pieces of the ship, and all were brought safely to land

- † God's promise is fulfilled completely
- † Every life is saved just as spoken
- † Deliverance comes through broken pieces

Historical References

† Josephus records storms and shipwrecks during the Roman period, showing the realism of these events, Antiquities of the Jews

† Eusebius confirms Paul's journey to Rome as part of early church history, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria speaks of God's providence guiding believers through danger, Stromata

How It Applies To Us Today

† God is still in control even when everything looks out of control

† His promises stand firm no matter the storm around us

† We may lose earthly things, but He preserves what truly matters

† Faith means trusting His word even when circumstances say otherwise

† Deliverance often comes through hardship, not avoidance

Q & A Appendix

Q: Why did God allow the storm if He planned to save them?

A: The storm revealed His power and fulfilled His word through deliverance (Acts 27:24-25)

Q: Why was only the ship destroyed and not the people?

A: It shows the removal of what was temporary while preserving life (Hebrews 12:27)

Q: Why did Paul have authority in the situation?

A: Because God had spoken through him and confirmed it (Acts 27:23-24)

Q: What does the storm represent spiritually?

A: It reflects judgment and the shaking of that age (Matthew 24:29)

Q: How does this connect to fulfilled prophecy?

A: It shows God's faithfulness in preserving His people during the end of that covenant age (Luke 21:18-22)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Acts 27

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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