



CAPITOL COMMISSION[®]

Paul's Supernatural Protection

JUNE 2-4, 2021

Pastor David Andersen / PO Box 2020, Chesterfield, VA 23832 / David.Andersen@capitolcom.org

Acts 27:39-28:6 *Now when day came, they could not recognize the land; but they were noticing a bay with a beach, and they were resolving to drive the ship onto it if they could. 40) And casting off the anchors, they left them in the sea while at the same time they were loosening the ropes of the rudders. And hoisting the foresail to the wind, they were heading for the beach. 41) But striking a reef where two seas met, they ran the vessel aground; and the bow stuck fast and remained unmovable, but the stern began to be broken up by the force of the waves. 42) Now the soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, so that none of them would swim away and escape; 43) but the centurion, wanting to bring Paul safely through, kept them from their intention, and ordered that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land, 44) and the rest should follow, some on planks, and others on various things from the ship. And so it happened that all were brought safely to land. 28:1) And when they had been brought safely to shore, then we learned that the island was called Malta. 2) And the natives showed us extraordinary affection; for because of the rain that had set in and because of the cold, they kindled a fire and received us all. 3) But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand. 4) And when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they began saying to one another, "Undoubtedly this man is a murderer, and though he has been saved from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live." 5) However he shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm. 6) But they were waiting for him to soon swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had waited a*

long time and had seen nothing unusual happen to him, changing their minds, they began to say that he was a god. (2021 Legacy Standard Bible)

"PAUL'S MIND RUSHED TO THE LORD'S PROMISE THAT HE WOULD APPEAL BEFORE CAESAR, AND HE WOULD HAVE SAFE CONDUCT TO ROME TO BE GOD'S WITNESS. HE KNEW HE WAS IN THE HANDS OF THE LORD. NO POWER ON EARTH COULD REVERSE THAT HEAVENLY DECREE."
JAMES FLOYD

Did they need the mariners that final morning? Was the shipwreck on the reef much more dangerous? What law made the soldiers want to kill the prisoners? Why were the prisoners spared? Does Satan want Paul to reach Rome? How did Paul know that the poison of the viper would not hurt him?

FOCUS ON FUTURE SATELLITE BIBLE STUDIES:

- JUNE 9-11: ACTS 28:7-16 **PAUL'S SPECIAL PROVISION**
- JUNE 16-18: ACTS 28:17-23 **PAUL'S WITNESS TO HIS PEOPLE**

Fourteen days their Alexandrian freighter was hammered with white capped walls of water smashing against their starboard stern and sweeping the deck. The howling of the high speed winds and the expectation of the next wave crushing their sinking ship kept all in a state of panic, forgetting to eat for two weeks. With faint sound of waves crashing against rocks in pitch black darkness, they took depth soundings and found their ship was about to be catapulted onto them by the towering waves. Four anchors halted their ship, only increasing their sheer terror that the next wave would rip through the stern with increased force against the immovable freighter. Seaworthy mariners were so horrified, they tried to escape with the lifeboat. Yet Paul brought peace, asking all to eat and giving thanks to God for His protection

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 8:30AM – BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – 106 CARTER ST & NOON – FAIRFAX – DENNY'S, 10473 FAIRFAX BLVD.

THURSDAY @ 8:00AM – BIBLE STUDY – RICHMOND – SHONEY'S, 9963 HULL STREET ROAD (LOCATED AT HULL & COURTHOUSE)

FRIDAY @ 7:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY – SUFFOLK – VILLAGE INN, 6116 COLLEGE DRIVE, NEAR HAMPTON ROADS CROSSING

Virginia

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and the food. When he ate, they joyfully ate with him and lightened the ship by throwing their wheat overboard.

“THERE IS SUCH A HUGE AMOUNT OF PERIL IN THIS VOYAGE THAT ALMOST NOTHING MORE HORRIBLE CAN BE SAID. FOR HE SAYS THAT THEY HAVE FASTED AND DONE WITHOUT FOOD CONTINUOUSLY UP UNTIL THE FOURTEENTH DAY, CLEARLY NOT WANTING FOOD BECAUSE THEY WERE EXPECTING DEATH AT ANY MOMENT.” **JOHANNES BRENZ**

I. THE GREATER DANGER **ACTS 27:39-41**

As the darkness receded they still did not know where they were, but through the sheets of rain could see a bay with a beach they could possibly reach. Simultaneously the mariners released the ropes to the anchors and the rudders and raised the storm sail to catch driving gale enabling them to tack the ship toward the sandy shore. Yet far from the shore they drove the ship aground onto a hidden reef with churning waters where two seas met. The bow stopped with a thud that jarred the entire ship. The next towering breaker bashed the stern with a crack and rush of water that engulfed those below the deck.

“THE SHIP WAS HOPELESSLY CAUGHT; THE BOW COULD NOT BE FREED FROM THE REEF, AND THE STERN WAS BEING BATTERED TO PIECES BY THE THUNDEROUS BREAKERS. CLEARLY, THE END HAD COME, AND IT WAS TIME TO ABANDON SHIP.” **JOHN MACARTHUR**

II. THE GRACIOUS DELIVERANCE **ACTS 27:42-44**

Amidst the panic the soldiers plan to kill the prisoners, fully aware that if any of them escape, they will suffer the same penalty as their captives (Acts 12:19, 16:27). Did they consider that such a slaughter would include Paul

who had perfectly predicted this shipwreck and had assured them that all would be saved from this storm? Evidently only the centurion in command really believed God's Word and he risked everything to save Paul. Not only did he stop his soldiers from their slaughter, but he commanded those who were able to swim were to jump in the water first and swim to the beach. Then those remaining were to go as they were able to use pieces of the ship being broken up or find other things on the ship to keep them afloat as they paddled toward the beach and the waves pushed them inland. Miraculously, everyone made it to land safely in spite of the monstrous waves.

“THE CENTURION, WANTING TO SPARE PAUL, ORDERED THE SOLDIERS NOT TO EXECUTE THE PRISONERS. HE WOULD ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DECISION.” **JAMES FLOYD**

III. THE GODLY DAUNTLESS **ACTS 28:1-6**

When victims of shipwreck were often killed or sold into slavery by those who found them, the natives of Malta were extraordinarily kind to these 276 castaways on their shore. Not only was God's Word perfectly fulfilled in their all safely reaching shore, but the islanders even pitied them so that they met their most urgent need and built a bond fire in the midst of the driving rain, giving them all warmth in the cold north wind. Shivering Paul, in his servant leadership, is still focused on all those given to him and is gathering wood for their fire. As he releases a bundle of sticks on the fire, a poisonous viper slithers away from the heat and attacks Paul with a vicious bite on his hand, and then hangs on to expel plenty of venom into the wounds. The natives, like Job's friends, gossip among themselves that he must be a murderer whom justice had destined to death. After seeing Paul shake the snake into the fire, suffering no harm, they then conclude that he is a god. Paul knew God had promised that he was to be a strategic witness to Nero the Emperor.

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Are you a leader who brings peace to others by exemplifying belief in the Word of God and through prayer?
- 2) Do you only consider yourself like the soldiers or make decisions considering others based on the Word of God?
- 3) Do you demonstrate servant leadership like Paul, and trust God in time of crisis that He will keep His Word?