



**EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH**

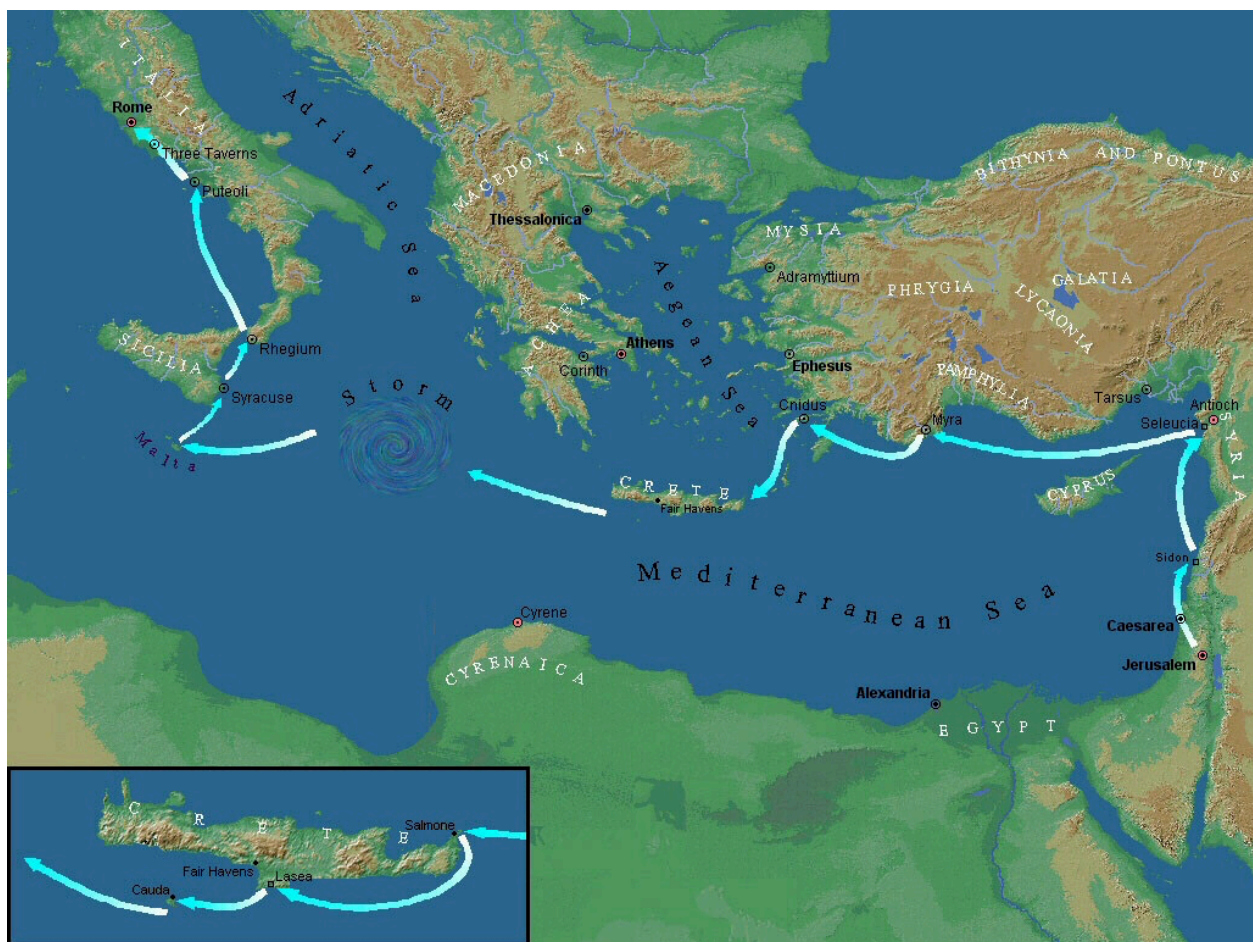
When Hope is Fading

Acts 27:1-28:14

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In Acts 27, Paul was taken on a dangerous journey from Caesarea to Malta. During the trip, the ship's crew and Paul's shipmates lost hope that they would survive. But Paul continued to listen for God's word. When he heard it, he trusted God, obeyed God, thanked God, and glorified God by serving others.



After leaving Crete (against Paul's advice), the ship encountered a storm that was like a hurricane. It battered the ship for two weeks, leaving them in darkness, without navigational aids, with much of their gear thrown overboard to reduce weight. They were being pushed around by the wind and had no control over their direction. But God brought them safely to the tiny island of Malta.

In the midst of the dark and brutal storm, Paul listened for God's word, and when he heard it, he believed it and he acted on that faith and told the good news to others.

Paul loved the people around him, and he cared for their well-being. He glorified God by serving others.

The hope of the believer in Jesus Christ is anchored in the promises of God, which never change. Our final rest in Christ is certain. This will end well. So, even in the midst of terrible and dark storms, we can trust His word and testify of His promises, and give thanks, and continue to serve and glorify our Lord and Savior.

Questions to Consider

1. Have you ever felt like you were in the midst of a dark and unending storm, being pushed around by circumstances, with no sense of control or direction? Were you losing hope?
2. As a believer in Jesus Christ, what are some clear promises that you have from the Lord that you can cling to in the darkest of times?
3. Because of his trust in God's word, even in the midst of the storm Paul was able to focus on the well-being of others. What are practical ways that you have received care from a brother or sister who was going through their own storm?
4. Read Hebrews 6:13-20. As a believer in Jesus Christ, in what is your ultimate hope? Where is that hope anchored and how should that influence how you navigate storms today?