

***Study of Acts 27***  
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***Acts 27:1-44***

This chapter of the book of *Acts* recounts the sea voyage of Paul on his way to Rome.

We are told that the Centurion, Julius, was courteous to Paul and gave him liberties on the ship even though he was a prisoner. This is not a coincidence, and we have to understand that it is Elohim that is orchestrating all of this and Elohim has put Julius in charge for such a time as this. What was it about Paul that the Centurion respected enough to be lenient with Paul? It was the presence of Elohim in Paul's life.

Now the scriptures tell us that they sailed to many cities and that it was now the fall of the year which we deduce by the fact that the *fast* was already past. That fast is the Yom Kippur fast, which is in late September or early to mid October.

Paul who has a relationship with Elohim and therefore is made aware of certain things that are going to happen warns the Centurion and the master of the ship that it is not good to set sail at this time for there will be hurt and much damage and not only of the cargo but also of lives. But like the prophets of old ***WERE NOT LISTENED TO***, neither is Paul listened to. The Centurion which represents the Greek mindset believe that they know best and rely on the wisdom of man and set sail despite the warnings of Paul, the man of Elohim.

So they left and not long after there arose a tempestuous wind and the ship was caught in that storm. The ship was tossed by the seas to such a degree that they had to lighten the load. It says that ***on the third day*** they tossed out the tackling of the ship. What is happening here, what are we being taught? The number *three* tells us that there is an event about to happen that will bring someone from death or possible to life and the fact that they had to throw out the ship's tackle shows me that we cannot count on anything of this world. The only One capable of Delivering us comes from our heavenly Father and there is nothing or no one else that we can rely upon but Elohim for our salvation.

It says that they did not see sun or stars for many days. In other words since they had ***NOT*** heeded the words of Paul, which is a picture of ***NOT*** heeding the word of Elohim, they were in total darkness and according to man's reckoning ***ALL HOPE WAS LOST***.

So after being prompted by Paul they fasted and after a long while Paul stood in the midst of them and said, *you should have listened to me and not have set sail*. Now Paul is not saying I told you so just to spite them; he is using this opportunity to preach that the word of Elohim ***IS TRUE AND THAT WHEN WE LISTEN AND OBEY HIS WORDS WE ARE BLESSED***.

As I said, they are now in total darkness and as we have been taught, ***IT IS*** then that our light will shine the brightest. Here on the boat that is floundering, Paul has a captive audience and now because of the situation they are in, they are very willing to listen to and believe what Paul has to say. What has changed? When they left they had good weather and lots of light, but now there is a storm and total darkness and what they thought they could rely on, the ship or the ways of man ***IS NO LONGER*** protecting them, so

they need help and now they are willing to listen because without Paul who represents the Word, the Torah of Elohim, they are in total darkness which is a fearful place to be in.

In *verse 22* Paul says *don't worry be of good cheer because there shall NOT be the loss of any man's life among you BUT the ship will perish*. How does Paul know that? Paul tells the men, *I have been visited by a messenger from Elohim, WHO I BELONG TO AND WHO I SERVE AND HE TOLD ME, FEAR NOT PAUL for you must be brought before Caesar and Elohim has given you ALL THAT SAIL WITH YOU. Therefore men be of good cheer for I believe Elohim, AND THAT IT SHALL BE EXACTLY AS IT WAS TOLD TO ME.*

Now had Paul delivered this same message when the ship was sailing under clear skies, do you think that he would have gotten the same response? For after all *IT IS* the same message? The answer *IS* of course *NOT* he would *NOT* have had the same response. The only reason these men are willing to listen and believe *IS* because of the darkness and the failure of man's ways being able to help them.

*Verse 27* tells us *when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria at about midnight; the ship-men deemed that they drew near to some country.*

The number fourteen in Scripture speaks of salvation for it is on the fourteenth of Aviv that the Passover Lamb is sacrificed. The number fourteen is used in this story to let us know that Paul and *ALL* the crew of the ship are going to be brought out of darkness represented by the word *midnight*, and brought into YHVH's Light of Life, His resurrection onto eternal life.

*Verse 28* says that the sailors sounded for depth and they found that it was *twenty* fathoms, and the number *twenty* in Scripture represents redemption. The sons of Israel are redeemed in their 20<sup>th</sup> year.

So now that salvation has been promised they must first be redeemed. The story goes on and tells us that they go on a little further and sounded again and this time we are told that there is a depth of fifteen fathoms, fifteen represents rest. The final feast before the Millennium of Shalom, of peace is on the fifteenth of the month. We are told this bit of information so that we will *KNOW* that when Elohim redeems us, He will guide us into complete peace *IF* we will simply willingly obey and follow Him.

*Verse 29* tells us that now, even though they have the assurance of Paul's words they are still filled with fear and they throw out four anchors out of the stern of the ship and hoped for the best.

The number Four in Scripture represents two things to indicate that we have a choice. It represents the world, N.E.W.S., the four corners of the world and it also represents the Millennium that Messiah came into the world. So we have a choice, trust in the ways of the world or *TRUST* in the Living Torah of YHVH.

Now the sailors, *NOT* really trusting nor believing Paul's words, while pretending to lower the anchors also lowered the small boat for their escape. Paul who was made aware of this event by and through the Spirit of YHVH, now tells the Centurion that *IF* they leave the ship, *THEN* all of them will perish. So the Centurion orders the ropes that are attached to the small boats be cut and the soldiers cut them and the boats are taken away by the sea.

What is the lesson here? The lesson **IS** that even when confronted with the pure Word of Elohim and His miracles, there are still those that will try and rely on their own understanding, and do things their own way and in so doing jeopardize **ALL** those around them.

We must understand and **NOT** forget, that in their minds, their only means of escape, the life boats have been taken away from them, **SO THEY BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE DOOMED**, and Paul tries to give them hope.

Paul says I want you to eat something now, take some sustenance for your health, **FOR THERE SHALL NOT EVEN A HAIR FROM YOUR HEAD SHALL FALL**. Paul reminds them that it is now the *fourteenth day (salvation day)* of your fast and that now **IS** the time to take something to eat. So Paul takes the bread and gives thanks to Elohim in their presence. By using the number fourteen Paul is saying that **NOW IS THE TIME OF YOUR SALVATION, TAKE AND EAT THE BREAD, THE WORD OF ELOHIM WHICH WILL BRING YOU LIFE**.

It says that once they began to eat of the bread they were **ALL** of good cheer. Paul is showing us that obedience to the Word of Elohim brings joy into anyone's life. Now Paul tells us that there are two hundred and sixty and sixteen souls on board. What can we glean from this number?

In Hebrew each letter has a numerical value and since the number of souls that were on board were two Hundred and sixty and sixteen, I took those numbers and found out which letter of the Hebrew alphabet they represent. The letter Resh ר for example has a numerical value of 200, the letter Samech ס has a numerical value of 60, the letter Yod י has a numerical value of 10 and the Vav ו has a numerical of 6, which totals two hundred and sixty and sixteen. When we put these letters together we form the word י ו ר ס, VeYasar which means *and was straight, was upright, was pleasing*; and it has the same phonetic sound as Israel, יִשְׂרָאֵל. Yasar El, יִשְׂרָאֵל which means *the straight path of Elohim or the uprightness of Elohim*.

Furthermore we have learned that the letter Resh means *head, or man*; the letter Samech means to *support or prop up*; the letter Yod means *hand*; and the letter Vav means *nail* and it is often used as the word **AND** which of course *connects things together* and since **IT IS** the sixth letter of the Alphabet, and the number six in Scripture represents man, then we can see that this letter **IS** a picture of our Messiah who took on the form of a man and was nailed to the cross in order that we could be reconnected to our heavenly Father and spend eternity with Him.

When I put the meaning of these letters together I come up with, *the person or the head or the leader that supports or Carries ALL of Elohim's children on His shoulders and who IS the ONE who had His Hands nailed to the cross* because of our sinful lives. So in this case the 276 people were sailors, prisoners and soldiers and they represent the world and they were **ALL** saved by the Covenant that Elohim had made with Paul. That my friends **IS** the salvation message. YHVH's Salvation **IS** available **FOR ALL WHO WILL WILLINGLY AND LOVINGLY FOLLOW PAUL AS HE FOLLOWED THE MESSIAH**, and Messiah willingly and lovingly followed and obeyed the Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life as was prophesied from the beginning of time and throughout Scripture.

Now Paul tells us that once they had eaten and were full that they lightened the ship. That means that they threw everything over board and even cast out the wheat. The wheat in this case represents the bread or the teachings of the world, the words or the seed of the serpent. Once a person partakes of the Word, the

bread of Elohim, the bread of the world becomes as dung, and must be thrown out, **FOR IT IS GOOD FOR NOTHING.**

Now that they have eaten of the bread of Elohim and tossed out the ways or the bread of the world, we are told that **IT IS** now daytime, which refers to daylight, the light that one receives from the Word of Elohim, and now they see or discover the best route for them to take. That my friends **IS** what the Word of Elohim **WILL DO FOR YOU**, it will set you on the right path, the path that our heavenly Father has laid out for His eternal salvation. So they set sail toward the shore.

*Verse 41 And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart **STUCK FAST**, and remained unmovable, but the hinder part **WAS BROKEN WITH THE VIOLENCE OF THE WAVES**.* This tells us the ship that Paul and these sailors were on was caught up in a place where two seas met and they ran the ship aground and the front of the ship **STUCK FAST** and remained unmovable, but the hinder part, the back part was broken up by the violence of the waves from the two seas. This tells us that when we learn to focus on, believe and obey the One True Elohim, that we will experience victory, however **IF** we are indecisive and or double minded, we will **NOT** be able to follow nor obey YHVH's Word, His Torah and our indecision will cause us to be ripped apart and perish, because the only path to Salvation **IS** through obedience to Messiah's Commandments, which are identical to the Father's Commandments, for the two of them **ARE ECHAD**, therefore they speak with **ONE VOICE**, the Torah of Moses.

What do we learn from this? This is telling us that **EVEN THOUGH** we have been redeemed by the grace of Elohim, **WE MUST CONTINUE IN THE WAYS** of Elohim, and ensure that we do **NOT** bring things of the world into the Word of Elohim. The two seas coming together shows us that they brought mixture into the word of Elohim and the ship ran aground.

YHVH is showing us that **IF** we stay on the path that His Word leads us on represented by the front of the ship, we will be on solid ground and unmovable, but **IF** we look back to the things of the world and lust after them, **THEN** we will be tossed back and forth and eventually perish for their **IS** violence and curses in the ways of the world because it is the realm of the prince of darkness, satan himself.

*Verse 42* tells us that the soldiers wanted to kill the prisoners, but the Centurion wanting to save Paul kept them from their purpose. From this we learn that we are to listen to and follow Paul as he followed Messiah. The Centurion represents the protection of Elohim while the soldiers represent the seed of the serpent, the spirit of Esau that wants to kill his brother Jacob, Israel.

Now the Centurion who represents Paul's protection because Paul is being obedient to the Word of Elohim, commands those that can swim to jump into the sea and to swim to the land, and the rest, should grab whatever they can, such as boards or broken pieces of the ship and get to the shore. This tells me that YHVH wants to save those that are strong in the faith and can swim among the sea (people) and still make it to shore (*a picture of the kingdom of Elohim*) because of their love and **TRUST** in Elohim, but YHVH also wants to save those that are weak in the faith and need help to make it to shore also (*a picture of the kingdom of Elohim*), therefore Elohim makes things available to help those who are weak in faith on their journey through the sea (people) so that as the weaker brethren learn to **TRUST** in YHVH and rely on His help, as they let Him direct their paths, they will make it to shore (*a picture of the kingdom of Elohim*). Every one is to have the attitude that **IF** YHVH IS for us, **WHO** can be against us.

*It is His wish that no one should perish but that the evil turn from their wicked ways and live, be saved.  
What a gracious Elohim we serve. Amein*

*Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.*

*Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought,  
and your every deed. Until we meet again, שְׁלוֹמֵ עֵלְיֵכֶם, Shalom Aleykem. Amein*