

Acts 27:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And because the haven was not commodious to winter in, the more part advised to depart thence also, if by any means they might attain to Phenice, and there to winter; which is an haven of Crete, and lieth toward the south west and north west.

Analysis

The haven was not commodious to winter in—Fair Havens (modern Kaloi Limenes) lacked protection from northwest winds and had inadequate facilities for a large grain ship's crew during months of inactivity. **The more part advised to depart**—democratic consensus is not divine guidance. The majority chose economic calculation over prophetic warning. **Phenice** (Phoenix, modern Phineka) offered better shelter with harbors facing southwest and northwest, protecting from multiple wind directions. The irony: seeking comfort and security, they sailed into disaster. This mirrors Israel's wilderness rebellion—rejecting God's plan for perceived better options.

Historical Context

Fair Havens is a small bay on Crete's southern coast, about 5 miles east of Cape Matala. Phoenix lay approximately 40 miles west along Crete's coast. The decision to risk the short sail rather than winter uncomfortably proved catastrophic. Ancient ships carried 200-600 people; wintering required substantial shore facilities.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. When have you chosen the path of greater comfort over God's clearly revealed will?
2. How does the 'majority opinion' in your church or community sometimes conflict with biblical wisdom?

Interlinear Text

ἀνευθέτου δὲ τοῦ λιμένα ὑπάρχοντος πρὸς
not commodious And G3588 the haven because to
G428 G1161 G3040 G5225 G4314

παραχειμασίαν οἱ πλείους ἔθεντο βουλὴν ἀναχθῆναι
winter in G3588 the more part G5087 advised to depart
G3915 G4119 G1012 G321

κάκεῖθεν εἴπως δύναιντο καταντήσαντες εἰς Φοίνικα
thence also if they might attain to Phenice
G2547 G1513 G1410 G2658 G1519 G5405

παραχειμάσαι λιμένα τῆς Κρήτης βλέποντα κατὰ
and there to winter the haven G3588 of Crete and lieth toward
G3914 G3040 G2914 G991 G2596

λίβα καὶ κατὰ χῶρον
the south west and toward north west
G3047 G2532 G2596 G5566