

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		the haven	because	to
G428	G1161	G3588	G3040	G5225	G4314
παραχειμασίαν	οἱ	πλείους	ἔθεντο	βουλήν	ἀναχθῆναι
winter in		the more part		advised	to depart
G3915	G3588	G4119	G5087	G1012	G321
κακεῖθεν	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		of Crete	and lieth	toward
G3914	G3040	G3588	G2914	G991	G2596
λίβα	καὶ	κατὰ	χωρον		
the south west	and	toward	north west		
G3047	G2532	G2596	G5566		