

Acts 27:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, loosing thence, they sailed close by Crete.

Analysis

When the south wind blew softly—The gentle notos (south wind) seemed to confirm their plan's wisdom, a common deception when circumstances appear to validate wrong choices. **Supposing that they had obtained their purpose** (δόξαντες τῆς προθέσεως κεκρατηκένοι, doxantes tēs protheseōs kekratēkenai) —'thinking they had mastered their objective.' Human presumption at its peak: favorable conditions misinterpreted as divine approval. **Loosing thence, they sailed close by Crete**—they hugged the coastline for safety, unaware that within hours the gentle breeze would become a typhoon. Satan often permits initial 'success' in disobedient ventures to deepen eventual destruction.

Historical Context

The south wind allowed them to sail west along Crete's southern coast toward Phoenix. In ancient navigation, pilots kept land in sight when possible. The gentle conditions were typical of the brief calm periods before Mediterranean autumn storms. Within hours, their confidence would turn to terror.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. When have favorable circumstances tempted you to interpret God's silence as approval?
2. How do you distinguish between God's genuine blessing and Satan's temporary permission in your decisions?

Interlinear Text

ὑποπνεύσαντος	δὲ	νότου	δόξαντες	τῆς
blew softly	And	when the south wind	supposing	
G5285	G1161	G3558	G1380	G3588
προθέσεως	κεκρατηκέναι	ἄραντες	ἄσσουν	παρελέγοντο
their purpose	that they had obtained	loosing	close by	thence they sailed
G4286	G2902	G142	G788	G3881
τὴν	Κρήτην			
G3588	Crete			
	G2914			