

Acts 27:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship;

Analysis

We being exceedingly tossed with a tempest—The Greek σφοδρῶς χειμαζομένων (sphodrōs cheimazomenōn) means 'violently storm-tossed,' conveying relentless battering. **The next day they lightened the ship** (ἐκβολὴν ἐποιοῦντο, ekbolēn epoiounto, 'they made a throwing out')—jettisoning cargo, likely the wheat destined for Rome. Economically catastrophic, this desperate measure reduced weight and raised the waterline. Spiritually symbolic: crisis forces us to jettison what we valued—success, security, possessions—to survive. The progression (vv. 18-19, 38) shows escalating desperation: cargo, then ship's tackle, then food supplies. Each loss strips away false securities until only God's word remains (27:25).

Historical Context

Grain ships carried 1,000+ tons of Egyptian wheat to feed Rome. Throwing cargo overboard represented staggering financial loss—the owner's ruin, the crew's unpaid voyage. Ancient ships sat lower in water when heavily laden, making them more vulnerable to swamping. Lightening the ship was a last-resort survival measure.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What 'cargo'—possessions, ambitions, securities—has God asked you to jettison in life's storms?
2. How does progressive loss in trials prepare you to cling solely to God's promises?

Interlinear Text

σφοδρῶς	δὲ	χειμαζομένων	ἡμῶν	τῇ	ἐξῆς
being exceedingly	And	tossed with a tempest	we	G3588	the next
G4971	G1161	G5492	G2257		G1836
ἐκβολὴν	ἐποιοῦντο				
day they lightened the ship	G4160				
G1546					

Additional Cross-References

Jonah 1:5 (Light): Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

Acts 27:38 (Light): And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, and cast out the wheat into the sea.

Hebrews 12:1 (Parallel theme): Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Acts 27:19 (Parallel theme): And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship.

