

Acts 27:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island.

Analysis

Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island—The divine 'must' (δεῖ) reappears, confirming God's specific plan includes shipwreck on Malta (revealed in v. 28:1). This precision validates Paul's prophetic word: not vague hope but detailed foreknowledge. The Greek *ekpesein* (be cast upon) suggests violent landing, yet within God's sovereignty. Divine purpose doesn't eliminate hardship but directs it toward redemptive ends. The 'certain island' (unnamed here) shows God's plan contains specifics unknown to Paul but fully known to God.

Historical Context

The island proved to be Malta (Melita), strategically located between Sicily and North Africa. Malta's sheltered bays and resident population provided recovery opportunity. Paul's ministry there (healing Publius' father, Acts 28:8) turned disaster into evangelistic opportunity—a pattern throughout Acts where persecution or crisis advances the gospel.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when God's will includes 'shipwreck'—unavoidable hardship in the midst of His purposes?
2. What 'certain islands' of crisis has God used to redirect your path toward His purposes?

Interlinear Text

εἰς	νησον	δέ	τινα	δεῖ	ἡμᾶς	ἐκπεσεῖν
upon	island	Howbeit	a certain	must	we	be cast
G1519	G3520	G1161	G5100	G1163	G2248	G1601

Additional Cross-References

Acts 28:1 (Parallel theme): And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita.

Acts 27:17 (Parallel theme): Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven.