

# Acts 27:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day.

## Analysis

---

**Fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks**—Malta's coastline combined sandy beaches with treacherous rocky outcrops. Grounding on rocks meant certain destruction; sandy beach offered survival hope. **They cast four anchors out of the stern**—normally anchors deployed from the bow, but stern anchors held the ship's head seaward, preventing beam-to-breakers orientation. This expert seamanship prepared for beach landing at daylight. **And wished for the day** (ἤϋχοντο ἡμέραν γενέσθαι, were praying day to come)—the Greek suggests both natural desire and prayerful longing. Waiting for daylight with land so near required agonizing patience.

## Historical Context

---

Ancient anchors were iron or stone, stored at stern for quick deployment. The four-anchor spread provided maximum holding power in strong winds. Malta's St. Paul's Bay, the traditional landing site, features the described geography—a sandy beach between rocky promontories. Archaeological evidence confirms ancient shipwrecks in this location.

## Related Passages

---

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

---

1. When you're 'near land' in your spiritual journey, how do you wait patiently for God's daylight rather than rushing blindly ahead?
2. How does combining expert preparation with prayerful dependence characterize mature faith?

## Interlinear Text

---

φοβούμενοί	τε	μήπως	εἰς	τραχεῖς	τόπους
<b>fearing</b>	<b>Then</b>	<b>lest</b>	<b>upon</b>	G5138	<b>rocks</b>
G5399	G5037	G3381	G1519		G5117
ἐκπέσωσιν	ἐκ	πρύμνης	ρίψαντες	ἄγκυρας	τέσσαρας
<b>we should have fallen</b>	<b>out of</b>	<b>the stern</b>	<b>they cast</b>	<b>anchors</b>	<b>four</b>
G1601	G1537	G4403	G4496	G45	G5064
ἤϋχοντο	ἡμέραν	γενέσθαι			
<b>and wished</b>	<b>for the day</b>	G1096			
G2172	G2250				

## Additional Cross-References

---

**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.

**Hebrews 6:19** (Parallel theme): Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;