

Acts 27:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship,

Analysis

The shipmen were about to flee out of the ship—The sailors' attempted desertion reveals self-preservation instinct overriding duty and divine promise. The Greek nautai (sailors) were experienced seamen, yet panic eclipsed professional responsibility. Their deception **under colour as though they would have cast anchors** shows how crisis exposes character—religious pretense masking cowardice. Luke's nautical precision ('foreship,' technical anchor terminology) validates his eyewitness account.

Paul's earlier assurance (v. 22-26) that all would survive required human cooperation, not passive fatalism. The sailors' expertise was necessary for safe landing, demonstrating how divine sovereignty works through human means, not apart from them.

Historical Context

Ancient Mediterranean sailing required specialized knowledge of winds, currents, and coastal navigation. Lifeboats (Greek skaphe) were small boats towed behind or carried aboard larger vessels. Sailors abandoning ship would have doomed passengers unfamiliar with seamanship, making their desertion particularly treacherous during this 60 AD storm.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does panic lead believers to abandon God's clear promises and pursue self-preservation?
2. In what ways does God's sovereignty require rather than eliminate human responsibility and action?

Interlinear Text

τῶν δὲ ναυτῶν ζητούντων φυγεῖν ἐκ τοῦ πλοίου
G3588 And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship
G1161 G3492 G2212 G5343 G3588 G1537 G4143

καὶ χαλασάντων τὴν σκάφην εἰς τὴν θάλασσαν
when they had let down the boat into the sea
G2532 G5465 G3588 G4627 G1519 G3588 G2281

προφάσει ὡς ἐκ πρώρας μελλόντων ἀγκύρας
under colour as though out of the foreship they would anchors
G4392 G5613 G1537 G4408 G3195 G45

ἐκτείνειν
have cast
G1614

Additional Cross-References

Acts 27:16 (Parallel theme): And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the boat:

